



*Office for*  
**ADDICTIVE DISORDERS**

# **GAMBLING IN LOUISIANA**

**2002 LOUISIANA STUDY OF PROBLEM GAMBLING**

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### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to express our gratitude to numerous individuals who assisted us in this study. Those who were exceptionally helpful included Sgt. Troy Leonard of the Louisiana State Police Department, who provided the number of gambling sites and devices in each parish in Louisiana, Reece Middleton and Colleen Leonard of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline, who provided the data of callers seeking assistance from their agency, the high school principals who responded to our questionnaire, and the residents of Louisiana who were interviewed for this study. We would especially like to thank the staff of Louisiana's Office for Addictive Disorders, especially Michael Duffy, Tonetta Morrison, Matricia Green, and Galen Schum whose guidance was essential to the production of this report. Of course, any and all errors in this report are unintentional, and are the sole responsibility of the authors.

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## **Chapter 1 -- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Gambling is one of the oldest forms of entertainment known to exist; yet the study of gambling is relatively recent. Even more recent is the study of problem or compulsive gambling, including its debilitating effects upon individuals, families, and society.

Beginning in 1990, the Louisiana State Legislature concluded that expanding legal gambling to a number of new venues might be a method to reduce pressures on the State budget without increasing taxes. Authorizations were provided for a series of gambling activities that made legal gambling more accessible to the average adult living in the State. First, horse racetracks were permitted to simulcast out-of-state racing and off track betting (OTB) facilities were set up across the State. Then, a State lottery was approved, with the later addition of Powerball. Soon after, video poker facilities were licensed at racetracks, OTBs and truck stops throughout the State. Next, the State Legislature permitted riverboat casino gambling at venues spread throughout the State. Finally, a land-based casino was sanctioned for the New Orleans area in 1992 (Volberg & Moore, 1999). As gambling enterprises became more extensive throughout Louisiana, the State Legislature determined that studies should be conducted to examine the effects, if any, upon residents of the State.

This study is the third in a sequence (1995 and 1998) designed to study the problem of compulsive gambling, the best ways to prevent and address the problem of compulsive gambling, the most effective, responsible, and equitable way to support the infrastructure necessary to prevent problem gambling, and the steps that should be taken by the State Legislature to accomplish the establishment of the recommended infrastructure (Louisiana Compulsive Gambling Study Committee Report, 1996). The aims of this specific project were to:

- Compare/contrast regional and statewide results of telephone interviews of individual gambling activity and the number of establishments and devices in each region of the State;
- Measure the incidence of problem wagering and pathological gambling at the State and regional levels, using the phone interview data;

- Survey high school principals throughout Louisiana to find the levels of perceived gambling problems affecting their students, at regional and State levels;
- Examine Gambling Helpline data to see the relationship between self-reported problem gambling and gaming activity in each region;
- Study the different data sets to determine if gambling activity is concentrated in any specific region of Louisiana.

This report summarizes the findings of the study, and compares the results to previous studies conducted in Louisiana.

Table 1 exhibits four different measures obtained through sampling individuals in each region of the State. The first column notes the number of individuals surveyed who acknowledged that they had gambled in any way in the previous year. The survey data<sup>1</sup> shows the three regions of the State where respondents were more likely to report that they gambled were in the southeastern part of Louisiana.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the relatively small sample sizes in each of the ten regions (ranging from about 110 – 140 for each region), the confidence intervals are relatively wide at this level. See the regional discussions for a more definitive analysis.

**TABLE 1**  
**PREVALENCE OF WAGERING AND PROBLEM GAMBLING BY REGION**

<b>Region</b>	<b>% Who Gambled</b>	<b>% Gamblers Who Gambled Once a Week or More</b>	<b>% Problem Gamblers</b>	<b>% Pathological Gamblers</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	81.4	51.5	3.42	3.42
<b>CAHSD</b>	66.6	26.1	3.79	0
<b>Region 3</b>	80.5	31.6	2.90	.7
<b>Region 4</b>	71.8	29.5	3.21	2.56
<b>Region 5</b>	60.9	21.0	1.50	1.50
<b>Region 6</b>	49.6	25.4	2.52	.8
<b>Region 7</b>	61.6	22.6	2.64	1.99
<b>Region 8</b>	64.4	24.7	3.79	1.52
<b>Region 9</b>	72.3	32.9	.8	.8
<b>JPHSA</b>	78.4	37.2	4.17	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	67.7	29.8	2.87	1.58

The second column measures, for each region, those respondents who reported that they engaged in some form(s) of gambling during the past year, the percentage who gambled more than once per week on a given activity. This measure was devised to gauge those who gambled more frequently. Results indicated that respondents from Region 1 (the New Orleans area) gambled more frequently than respondents from any other section of the State.

The third column shows the percentage of those who were surveyed by region and scored either 3 or 4 points out of 20 questions on the current South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS)<sup>2</sup>. Historically, this response level reliably indicates an individual at a problem gambling level (Volberg, 1999). Here we see a wide variation among the regions, with respondents from Jefferson Parish (JPHSA), Capital Area (CAHSD), New

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<sup>2</sup> Please see Appendix 1 for a copy of the current South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) used in this study. Please see Appendix 2 for a discussion of the validity of the current SOGS when assessing the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling.

Orleans (Region 1), and Monroe (Region 8) regions with much higher levels than those from other areas of the State.

Finally, the fourth column represents the percentage of respondents who scored 5 or higher on the current SOGS. Once again, we see that Region 1 far outpaces the other sections of the State with the percentage of respondents meeting this criterion at levels of 150% or more than other regions.

In summary, the different measures of gambling consistently demonstrated higher gambling tendencies in the southeastern regions of the State than in the other regions, with Region 1 notably high on all four measures.

Next, we examined the number of gambling establishments and devices in each region. We examined this data in four different ways: the number of sites, the number of devices, the number of gambling sites per 1000 adults, and the number of devices per 1000 adults. The advantage to looking at both the number of establishments and the number of devices is that they are alternative measures that show the accessibility of legal gambling within a region. We find that most parishes that have casinos do not have truck stops or video poker outlets, so they would have a high number of devices, but very few sites.

When the number of gambling establishments per 1000 adults is examined (see Table 2), the regions with the highest number per capita are Regions 1, 3 and Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA), all located near New Orleans. On the other hand, when we look at the number of gambling devices per 1000 people, the two regions with the highest number are Regions 5 and 7, both located along the Texas border. These two areas, Lake Charles and Shreveport, respectively, both have casinos and rely on tourist dollars as a revenue source.

Later, in the State analysis section of the paper, we will discuss the relationship between sites per capita and establishments per capita and each of the four measurements of gambling cited in Table 1 in more detail. To summarize the results here, the correlation between sites per capita and each of the four measurements was positive, while interestingly, the relationship between devices per capita and each of the four measurements was negative<sup>3</sup>. This indicates, at least tentatively, that the greater the

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<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of regions (10), few of the correlations were statistically significant.

number of sites, the more prevalent the gambling problems. A reason that this might occur is that, for regions with a high number of sites per capita, impulse gambling is more accessible; for those with a few sites but a high number of devices, impulse gambling is more difficult.

**TABLE 2**  
**GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS AND DEVICES BY REGION**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Sites<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Devices</b>	<b>Adult Population<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Sites/1000 Adults</b>	<b>Devices/1000 Adults</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	693	2,618	424,497	1.63	6.17
<b>CAHSD</b>	197	3,413	442,831	.44	7.71
<b>Region 3</b>	522	5,064	272,890	1.91	18.56
<b>Region 4</b>	256	2,236	390,815	.66	5.72
<b>Region 5</b>	203	8,108	207,009	.98	39.17
<b>Region 6</b>	35	2,345	218,782	.16	10.72
<b>Region 7</b>	345	8,666	381,688	.90	22.70
<b>Region 8</b>	44	418	258,597	.17	1.62
<b>Region 9</b>	25	479	314,028	.08	1.53
<b>JPHSA</b>	570	4,517	322,014	1.77	14.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	2890	37,864	323,3151	.89	11.71

We next look at the other two data sets accumulated during the course of this study, a survey that was conducted of the high school principals' impressions of gambling habits among their students, and data collected and provided for this research by Gambling Helpline.

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<sup>4</sup> Data was provided through the Louisiana State Police Dept.

<sup>5</sup> Derived from U.S. Census data

**TABLE 3**

**GAMBLING HELPLINE AND HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DATA BY REGION**

<b>Region</b>	<b>% of Gambling Helpline Calls<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>% of State Population</b>	<b>% Principals Aware of Minor Problems</b>	<b>% Principals Aware of Major Problems</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	16.1	12.9	44.5	33.3
<b>CAHSD</b>	14.2	13.5	64	20
<b>Region 3</b>	8.8	8.6	62.4	18.8
<b>Region 4</b>	7.6	12.3	68.2	9.1
<b>Region 5</b>	4.4	6.3	57.2	9.5
<b>Region 6</b>	3.5	6.7	60.9	8.7
<b>Region 7</b>	18.8	11.7	58.3	16.7
<b>Region 8</b>	3.2	7.9	60	20
<b>Region 9</b>	4.4	9.8	54.6	22.7
<b>JPHSA</b>	19.1	10.2	50	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			58.	16.7

The regions where principals generally felt that major gambling problems were worse than the State average were Regions 1, 9, 8, and CAHSD. When major and minor gambling problems are combined, the region that reported the most gambling problems is CAHSD, where 84% of principals think that there were some gambling problems among their charges. Other areas that were above the statewide average for this statistic included Regions 3, 8, 1, and 4. Actually, all the regions except for JPHSA show about the same levels of gambling among high school students making the case that gambling problems are pervasive among high school students statewide. As stated earlier, the sole exception to these results was JPHSA. One reason for this might be that the sample size (6) here is so much smaller than in the other regions. This was not due to anything other than the fact that there are less public high schools in JPHSA (15) than there are in the other areas of the State.

The Gambling Helpline data reveal that the regions of the State where they received a greater number than expected calls (based on population) are located primarily

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<sup>6</sup> Gambling Helpline calls received during 2002 that noted the region of the caller were included in this analysis.

in the Shreveport area and in Regions 1 and JPHSA. Perhaps the reason that Shreveport area residents are more likely to call the Helpline for assistance might be because the Helpline is located there. Once again in this case, the correlation statewide between sites per population and Helpline calls is very high and positive, while the relationship between devices and calls is negligible.

Table 4 examines the levels of problem and pathological gamblers in each of the regions of Louisiana. There are two regions of the State, Region 1 and JPHSA, where the levels of both problem and pathological gambling are higher than the statewide averages. These two regions adjoin each other in the southeastern sector of the State. These two regions also lead the State when we estimate the potential number of problem and pathological gamblers in their geographic areas.

Next, we shall see how the pattern of problem and pathological gambling in the 2002 study compares to those in previous studies of Louisiana. There has been virtually no change in the pathological gambling rates in the three studies conducted over a seven year time period. This remarkably stable set of numbers may reflect that there are a core number of individuals who suffer from severe problems caused by gambling over the course of their lifetimes. On the other hand, the steep decline found in the 1998 survey in the area of problem gambling has been reversed, and the 3.0% rate found in this study shows a return nearly to the 1995 levels.

**TABLE 4**  
**PROBLEM WAGERING AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING, BY REGION**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>% OF PROBLEM GAMBLERS</b>	<b>% OF PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS</b>	<b># OF PROBLEM GAMBLERS (UP TO)</b>	<b># OF PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS (UP TO)</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	3.4	3.4	28,000	28,000
<b>CAHSD</b>	3.8	0	31,400	10,300
<b>Region 3</b>	2.9	.7	15,600	5,700
<b>Region 4</b>	3.2	2.6	19,900	23,300
<b>Region 5</b>	1.5	1.5	7,400	7,400
<b>Region 6</b>	2.5	.8	11,600	5,300
<b>Region 7</b>	2.6	2.0	20,800	17,200
<b>Region 8</b>	3.8	1.5	18,700	9,400
<b>Region 9</b>	.8	.8	7,300	7,300
<b>JPHSA</b>	4.2	2.5	28,200	19,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	3.0	1.6	67,900-126,000	29,100-74,400

Finally, we will briefly discuss the four dimensions of gambling (problem gambling, pathological gambling, prevalence of gambling, and prevalence of frequent gambling) in each region compared to State averages.

**REGION 1** In each of the four dimensions mentioned, Region 1 is above the statewide average. For three of the four measurements, Region 1 contains the highest values of any area of the State.

**CAHSD** The only dimension in which CAHSD was above the State average was problem gambling percentage. For each of the others, it was lower.

**REGION 3** Region 3 presents a mixed picture. The rate of pathological gambling is the lowest of any region. The percentage of gamblers and the conversion rate is higher than the State average.

**REGION 4** Likewise, the figures for Region 4 are varied. While the rate of problem gambling is slightly below the State average, the pathological gambling rate is among the highest in the State.

- REGION 5** The results for Region 5 are consistently lower than the State average. For one of the dimensions, conversion rate, the percentage is the lowest of any region.
- REGION 6** In this section of the State, each of the dimensions used in Table 4 is lower than the Louisiana average. The rate of gamblers is lower than in any other region.
- REGION 7** The results are mixed for this section of the State. While problem gambling exceeds the statewide average, the other three dimensions are each below it.
- REGION 8** There were varied results for Region 8. The only measurement that was above the State average was problem gambling; each of the other three were below Louisiana's average.
- REGION 9** This region also has diverse results from the above table. While both problem and pathological gambling rates were higher than the State average, the other dimensions were lower.
- JPHSA** Jefferson Parish is above statewide regional averages on all four measures used in table 4. The level of problem gambling in this section of the State was higher than in any other region.

In summary, then, Region 1 and JPHSA each are above the regional average using any of the four domains. Region 5 and Region 6 are below the statewide average on all measurements in Table 4. The other six regions present mixed results, with some dimensions above the State average and others below the average.

## **CHAPTER 2 - INTRODUCTION AND METHODS**

During the 1990's, with the expansion of legalized gambling throughout the nation, an integral component of government sanctioning of gaming establishments has been the monitoring of the negative impacts of gambling upon individuals, families, and communities (Volberg & Dickerson, 1996). The study herein, initiated and funded by the Louisiana Office for Addictive Disorders, examines problem and pathological gambling, the extent of different forms of gambling for adults in Louisiana, the perception of adolescent gambling problems by high school principals, and the relationship of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline data to the other data sources.

This report has several purposes. The primary aim of the report is to examine each region of the State to perceive the relationship between the number of gambling locations, the prevalence of adult gambling, the perceived prevalence of adolescent gambling, the types of activities most used and abused by adults and adolescents, and the number of problem and pathological gamblers. An additional purpose is to examine each of the regions, in relationship to each other, for each of the above discussion items. The final purpose is to examine the difference in problem and pathological gambling between this study and those conducted in 1995 and 1998 in Louisiana. The results of this study should prove useful in detailing the differences in regional impact of legal gambling in Louisiana and in providing further services available to individuals in Louisiana with gambling-related difficulties.

This report is organized into several chapters for easy access and clarity of presentation. This chapter has three main sections. The Introduction incorporates a background, a look at gambling treatment services, and a description of terms used in this report. The Methods section includes the details of conducting the individual survey, and a description of the other data sets collected and used for this report. The final section of this chapter looks at the demographic of gamblers in Louisiana. The following chapter contains intra-regional analyses of the data. Chapter 4 provides inter-regional and statewide analyses. The final chapter contains a conclusion and some recommendations.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND**

Beginning in 1990, the Louisiana State legislature concluded that expanding legal gambling to a number of new venues might be a method to reduce pressures on the State budget without increasing taxes. Authorizations were provided for a series of gambling activities that made legal gambling more accessible to the average adult living in State. First, horse racetracks were permitted to simulcast out-of-state racing and off track betting (OTB) facilities were set up across the State. Then, a State lottery was approved, with the later addition of Powerball. Soon after, video poker facilities were licensed at racetracks, OTBs and truck stops throughout the State. Next, the State legislature permitted riverboat casino gambling at venues throughout the State. Finally, a land-based casino was sanctioned for the New Orleans area in 1992 (Volberg & Moore, 1999).

### **GAMBLING TREATMENT SERVICES**

In 1995, a study was conducted of the Louisiana adult population concluded that weekly gambling participation rates and the prevalence of current problem and pathological gambling in Louisiana were higher than in many other states (Volberg, 1995). In 1995, the Louisiana Compulsive Gambling Study Committee was created in order to study the problem of compulsive gambling, the best ways to prevent and address the problem of compulsive gambling, the most effective, responsible, and equitable way to support the infrastructure necessary to prevent problem gambling, and the steps that should be taken by the State legislature to accomplish the establishment of the recommended infrastructure (Louisiana Compulsive Gambling Study Committee Report, 1996). They recommended a number of initiatives to deal with the threat of compulsive gambling, including that regular studies of pathological gambling be conducted with extension of the age groups surveyed to middle school and adolescents (Louisiana Compulsive Gambling Study Committee Report, 1996).

They further recommended that Louisiana should set up treatment centers designed specifically for pathological gamblers, that prevention and treatment programs be established by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, that the minimum legal gambling age be changed from 18 to 21 for all types of gambling (Louisiana

Compulsive Gambling Study Committee Report, 1996). Thus far, a number of the actions recommended by the Louisiana Compulsive Gambling Study Committee have been established. These include the formation of Gambling Helpline, which receives calls from gamblers seeking assistance or from their friends and family who are concerned about their condition. The Department of Health and Hospitals has set up an adolescent gambling prevention program provided to schools throughout the State. Training conferences have been conducted for treatment professionals (Volberg & Moore, 1999).

### DEFINITION AND DERIVATION OF TERMS

- **Adult Population** – The number of residents ages 18 or older. This number was computed by multiplying the number of residents in each parish in 2000 (provided by US Census Bureau) by a multiplier (also provided by the US Census Bureau).
- **Conversion Rate** – The percentage of those who Ever Bet On an activity (see definition below), who do so once per week or more.
- **Ever Bet On** – For each gambling activity, the percentage of respondents who partake of that activity.
- **Gambler** – The percentage of respondents in the individual surveys who acknowledged that they had participated in any gambling activities over the past year.
- **Gambling Devices** – This was derived from data provided from LA State Police.
- **Gambling Sites** – This was derived from data provided by the LA State Police.
- **Pathological Gambling** – A full discussion of pathological gambling is provided in another section of this research, but, it should be noted that pathological gambling has four main characteristics: 1) progression; 2) an intolerance of losing; 3) preoccupation; 4) a disregard for consequences (Rosenthal, 1989).
- **Problem Gambling** – There are similarities between problem gamblers and pathological gamblers (above) but the primary differences are that problem gamblers do not show progression and they do not have the same intolerance for losing as pathological gamblers.

## **METHODS**

Baseline studies are the original examination of variables, and their relationship to other variables. Replication studies are those in which the relationships are essentially the same as those originally studied (Babbie, 1998). This research has some of the characteristics of a baseline study, and some of the characteristics of replication research. The data gathered from high school principals is baseline research, since it was initial research gathered on this population. On the other hand, the individual surveys were, to a great extent, a replication of research performed in 1995 and 1998. An advantage of replication research is that it builds on the knowledge and information gathered originally, permitting us to refine and clarify some of the earlier findings.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE – INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS**

The questionnaire (see Appendix 1) used during the phone interviews contained a number of different sections. The first section asks demographic information of the respondents. The next section asks respondents about twelve types of gambling in Louisiana. For each gambling activity, those interviewed were asked whether they ever tried the activity, and if they had done so once per week or more. Respondents then were asked their expenditure level of gambling. The final section of the survey was the current South Oaks Gambling Screen.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE – PRINCIPAL SURVEYS**

The questionnaire (see Appendix 2) used for the principal surveys contained but one section. Principals were asked, in their opinion, whether each of twelve gambling activities was a problem among their students, and if it were a problem, was it major or minor. These surveys were sent to every public high school principal in Louisiana, and were returned by about 50% of them.

### **SAMPLE DESIGN – INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS**

When constructing sample designs, the most basic approach is to construct a simple random sample. There are many advantages to this design (mainly involving maintenance of validity and reliability) since it ensures representativeness thereby

permitting the researcher to estimate the error present with precision, but is not desirable for many studies. If information is desired about a specific characteristic of the population, a more complex design, referred to as a stratified random sample, whereby the population is subdivided into groups, in which all members of each share the same characteristic. A specific concern in this research was to delineate differences in responses based on the region of Louisiana in which they resided. Therefore, a modified stratified sample was designed that ensured that at least 100 adults in each region would be randomly interviewed.

### **GAMBLING IN LOUISIANA**

The questionnaire that was used for the surveys collected information on twelve different types of gambling activities:

Played cards for money	Played bingo
Bet on sports using parlay cards, with a bookie, at jai alai	Played dice games, including craps, over and under, or other dice games
Went to casinos, legal or otherwise	Played the numbers or bet on lotteries
Bet on horses, dogs, or other animals at OTB, the track, or with a bookie	Played the stock and/or commodities market
Played slot machines, poker machines, or other gambling machines	Bowled, shot pool, played golf, or some other game of skill for money
Played pull tabs or 'paper games' other than lotteries	Some form of gambling not listed

### **GAMBLING IN THE GENERAL POPULATION**

Studies have shown that the percentage of respondents who have gambled changes from state to state and from year to year. In different studies that have been conducted recently, the range of respondents who have stated that they gambled ranged from 64% in Mississippi (1996) to 92% in New Jersey (1989) (Volberg, 1999). Table 2-1 shows the lifetime participation and weekly participation derived from this study. The data reveal that over 2/3 of respondents have gambled at some point in their lifetime, and

that 20% of them reported that they gambled weekly. These numbers are almost identical to the analogous figures found in the 1998 study (69.8% and 20.4%, respectively) (Volberg, 1999). The most popular gambling activities include going to casino (54.5%), playing the lottery (39.3%), playing slot/gambling machines (37.0%), and playing cards (24.9%). Because the gambling activities were not worded the same in the two studies, it is difficult to determine if there has been a change in gambling habits between the 1998 survey and this one. The weekly participation for these events ranges from 8.2% for playing the lottery to 4.1% for playing cards. An interesting comparison with the 1998 findings can be made for the lottery category, as the proportion of respondents has dropped sharply, and weekly participation is about half of what it was four years ago.

**Table 2-1: GAMBLING PARTICIPATION IN LOUISIANA, 2002 AND 1998**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lifetime Participation, 2002</b>	<b>Weekly Participation, 2002</b>	<b>Conversion Rate</b>
Gambler	67.7	20.2	29.8
Went to Casino	54.5	6.7	12.3
Numbers/Lottery	39.3	8.2	20.9
Slot/Gambling Machines	37.0	5.1	13.8
Played Cards	24.9	4.1	16.5
Played Bingo	22.2	2.1	9.5
Bet on Animals	16.8	1.7	10.1
Stock Market	14.0	4.8	34.3
Bet on Sports	12.6	1.7	13.5
Dice Games	8.2	1.6	19.5
Pull Tabs/Paper Games	7.4	.9	12.2
Played Sports or Games for Money	7.2	1.4	19.4
Other	5.3	.2	3.8

### **PATTERNS OF GAMBLING PARTICIPATION**

In this section, we examine demographic differences in gambling habits among the respondents to the telephone interviews. First, we examine gender differences. Men showed a statistical tendency to gamble, and to gamble frequently, more than women did.

Women are less likely to have ever gambled, and are 50% less likely to gamble weekly than are their male counterparts.

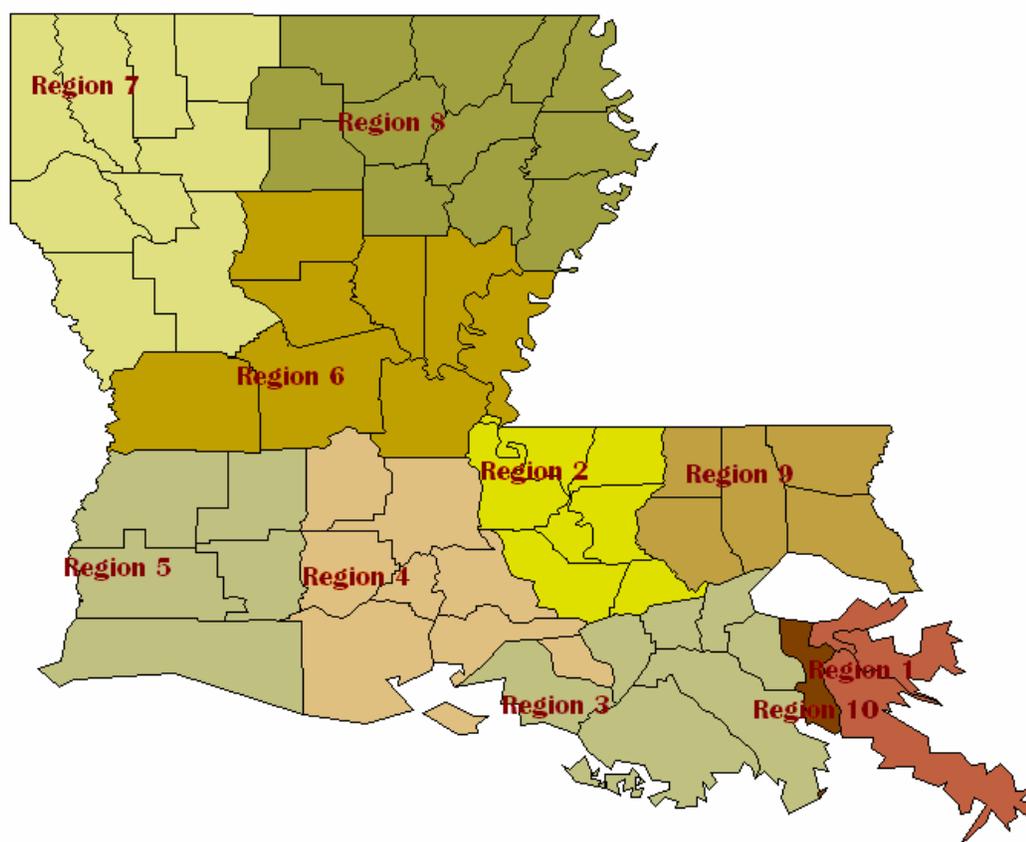
There are definitive age differences, as well, in gambling habits. Gambling participation, and the frequency of gambling steadily increases with age, until the age of 56-65, then begins a steep decline. The reason for this may be that since legalized gambling became widespread in Louisiana in the early 1990's, gambling habits may never have become engrained in these older residents. The difference is quite significant, with over 25% of 46-55 year olds reporting that they gambled weekly, while only 15% of those over 65 years of age state the same thing.

Ethnicity presents a different picture. Of the demographic characteristics that were collected, race was the only one that did not show a statistically discernable difference. The final demographic variable that was considered in this research was employment status. An interesting result here is that unemployed respondents were more likely to report that they gambled weekly than any other category. Without further inspection of this facet, it would be impossible to state definitively why this would be true. Some possible reasons might include extra leisure time or the need for funds that might not be achieved other than gambling.

**Table 2-2: DEMOGRAPHICS OF GAMBLERS IN LOUISIANA**

<b>Demographic Category</b>	<b>Non-Gamblers (%)</b>	<b>Lifetime Participation (%)</b>	<b>Weekly Gamblers (%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	32.2	47.6	20.2
<b>Gender***</b>			
<b>Male</b>	28.9	44.8	26.3
<b>Female</b>	33.9	48.6	17.5
<b>Age***</b>			
<b>18-25</b>	35.1	47.3	17.6
<b>26-35</b>	29.1	50.8	20.1
<b>36-45</b>	25.4	52.2	22.4
<b>46-55</b>	24.4	50.0	25.6
<b>56-65</b>	34.2	46.0	19.9
<b>Over 65</b>	45.2	39.4	15.4
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
<b>White</b>	31.3	48.0	20.7
<b>African-American</b>	34.5	47.4	18.1
<b>Hispanic</b>	22.2	50.0	27.8
<b>Asian</b>	33.3	33.3	33.3
<b>Other</b>	32.5	44.2	23.4
<b>Employment Status***</b>			
<b>Employed</b>	26.8	52.0	21.2
<b>Retired</b>	40.6	42.4	17.0
<b>Unknown</b>	81.8		18.2
<b>Unemployed</b>	27.6	46.6	25.8
<b>Student/Disabled/Other</b>	37.5	44.2	18.3

**Figure 1**  
**OAD Regions**



## **CHAPTER 3 – Statewide Results**

In this chapter, gambling data for the regions of Louisiana will be compared to each other, and statewide figures will be determined and discussed. In the following chapter, the results for each region will be discussed in detail.

### **HISTORY OF GAMBLING IN LOUISIANA**

Following the Civil War, because of the economic problems facing their State, the Louisiana State legislature granted a license for a State lottery. For over a decade, tickets were sold nationally as the lottery thrived. A decade later, nearby states prohibited the sale of Louisiana lottery tickets within their borders due to a growing moral climate opposed to gambling. By 1894, as the trend spread, the State legislature withdrew the license for the lottery firm (Sullivan, 1972). Gambling remained illegal in all of its forms until 1935, when horse racing was legalized (Westphal, et al, 2000).

Before 1990, legalized gambling was relatively rare in Louisiana, with the only forms extant being such relatively benign long-standing activities as church bingos, community raffles, and pari-mutuel horse racing. Beginning in the early 1990's though, State licensed gambling expanded greatly, as it was believed to be an unproblematic method to increase State revenues without increasing taxes (Volberg and Moore, 1999).

The first step involved with the expansion of government-licensed gambling entailed the expansion of horse racing gambling opportunities in a number of ways. The four racetracks were granted the right to offer inter-track wagering; racing from out of State racetracks was simulcast on the in-state tracks; and eventually, off-track wagering was provided at a select number of sites. Beginning in 1991, video poker machines were installed at horse racing venues (Volberg and Moore, 1999).

In 1991, a State lottery was begun in Louisiana, and has been expanded during the intervening years to include Powerball opportunities. Also, in that same year, video poker machines were licensed at truck stops and off-track facilities (Volberg and Moore, 1999).

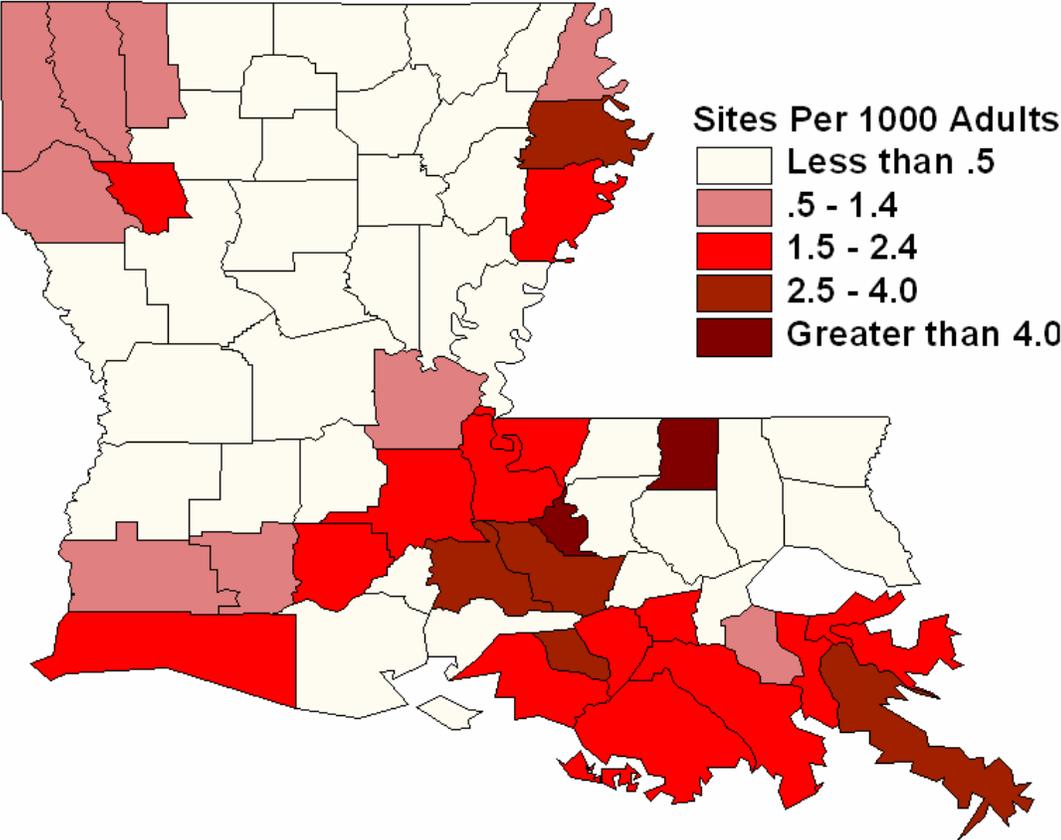
In that same year, the State legislature authorized riverboat gambling. By 1993, the first riverboat casinos opened (out of 15 that were originally licensed), in four major

demographic areas (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lake Charles) (Volberg and Moore, 1999).

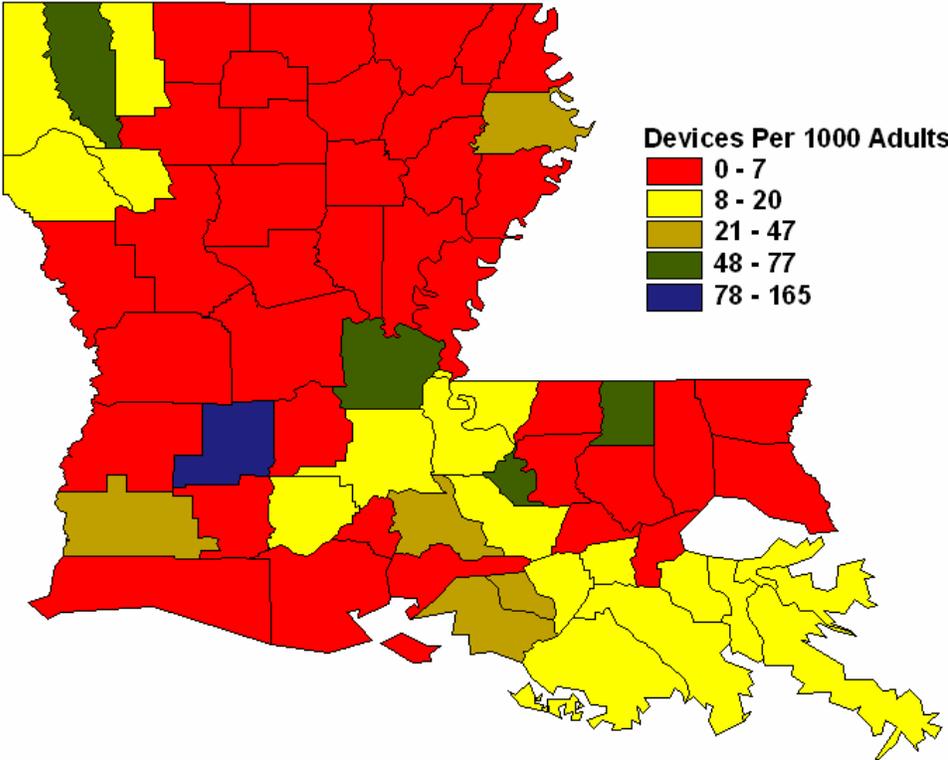
In 1992, land-based casino operations were approved in New Orleans. This casino, after many delays, eventually opened in 2000. As well, there are three Indian casinos thriving in diverse sections of Louisiana that were each opened since 1990 (Volberg and Moore, 1999).

# Figure 2

## Sites Per 1000 Adults



**Figure 3**  
**Devices Per 1000 Adults**



Late 1998 found a moderating effect on the increase in gambling facilities in the form of a referendum among the electorate throughout Louisiana. Voters in each parish had a choice in that election: allow all gambling that currently existed to remain legalized; allow some types of gambling to remain officially authorized, and while closing others; force all gambling venues to remove operations.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – STATEWIDE**

Table 1 shows the same data that was looked at in the previous chapter, expanded to statewide levels. Looking at the amount of gambling sites in each region, Regions 1, 3, and JPHSA are at a much higher level than the other parishes. The same three regions have the most sites per capita, each of them nearly doubling the regional average. The regions that have much fewer sites than the others are Regions 6, 8, and 9. This holds true on a per capita basis as well, with each of them averaging less than 1 site for every 5,000 adults.

Looking at the devices in each region, a different picture appears. Now, the two regions that have nearly double the regional average are Regions 5 and 7. On a per capita basis, Region 5 by far has the largest amount, tripling the regional average. The regions that have many less devices than the others are Regions 8 and 9, with about one-tenth the average number of gambling devices that exists statewide.

### **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – STATEWIDE**

Table 2 shows the incidence of gambling in two different data sets that were used in this study, the high school principals' questionnaire and the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls made from January through June 2002. Of the high school principals who responded, one-sixth of them stated that they believe that major gambling problems existed among the students in their schools. Another six out of ten believe that there are gambling problems among the students but that they are minor in nature. Only one-quarter of the principals in Louisiana believe that their students have no gambling problems.

Looking at the regional comparison, the regions where principals generally felt that major gambling problems were worse than the State average were Regions 1, 9, 8, and CAHSD. When major and minor gambling problems are combined, the region that reported the most gambling problems is CAHSD, where 84% of principals think that there are some gambling problems among their charges. Other areas that were above the statewide average for this statistic included Regions 3, 8, 1, and 4. Actually, all the regions except for JPHSA show about the same levels of gambling among high school students making the case that gambling problems are pervasive among high school students statewide. As stated earlier, the sole exception to these results was JPHSA. One reason for this might be that the sample size (6) here is so much smaller than in the other regions. This was not due to anything other than the fact that there are less public high schools in JPHSA (15) than there are in the other areas of the State.

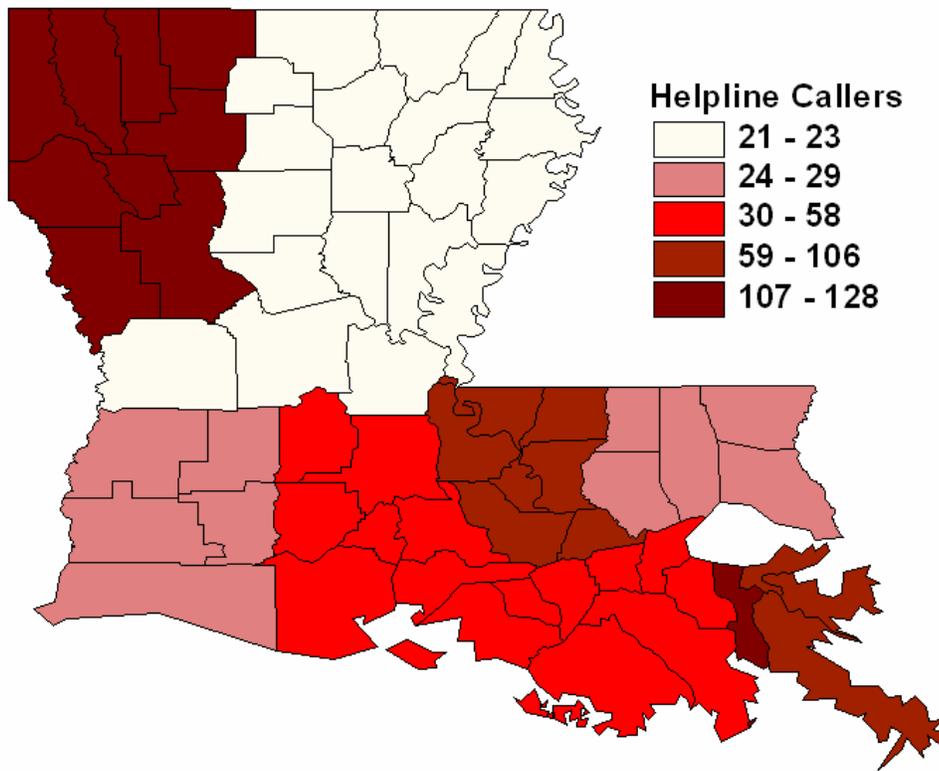
**TABLE 1, STATEWIDE Gambling Establishments, by Region**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>1</b>	424,498	693	1.63	6426	15.14
<b>CAHSD</b>	442,830	197	.44	3413	7.70
<b>3</b>	272,890	522	1.91	5064	18.56
<b>4</b>	390815	256	.66	2236	5.72
<b>5</b>	207010	203	.98	8108	39.17
<b>6</b>	218,781	35	.16	2345	10.72
<b>7</b>	381,687	345	.90	8666	22.70
<b>8</b>	264,145	47	.18	418	1.58
<b>9</b>	314,029	30	.10	479	1.53
<b>JPHSA</b>	322,014	570	1.77	4517	14.03
<b>TOTALS</b>	3,238,699	2898	.89	41,672	12.87

The other data set examined in Table 2 is the number of calls made to the Gambling Helpline during the first half of 2002. Merely looking at the raw numbers, the areas that had the most calls for assistance were Regions JPHSA, 7, and 1. Comparing the percentage of statewide calls made from each region to that region's share of Louisiana's

adult population, the regions neatly cluster into three diverse groups; those where the calls are much greater than one would expect given their population, ones where the calls reflect their population, and those where the calls are much fewer than one would expect. The first group includes Regions 1, 7, and JPHSA. An interesting note is that these three regions, referring to Table 1 in this chapter, rank in the top

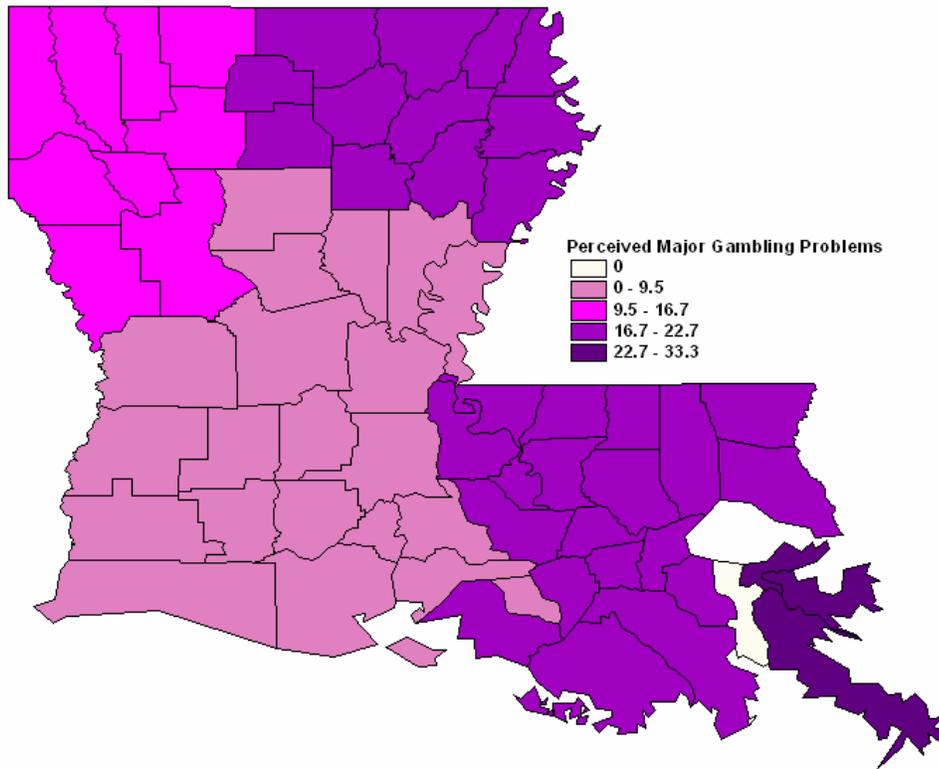
# Figure 4 Helpline Callers



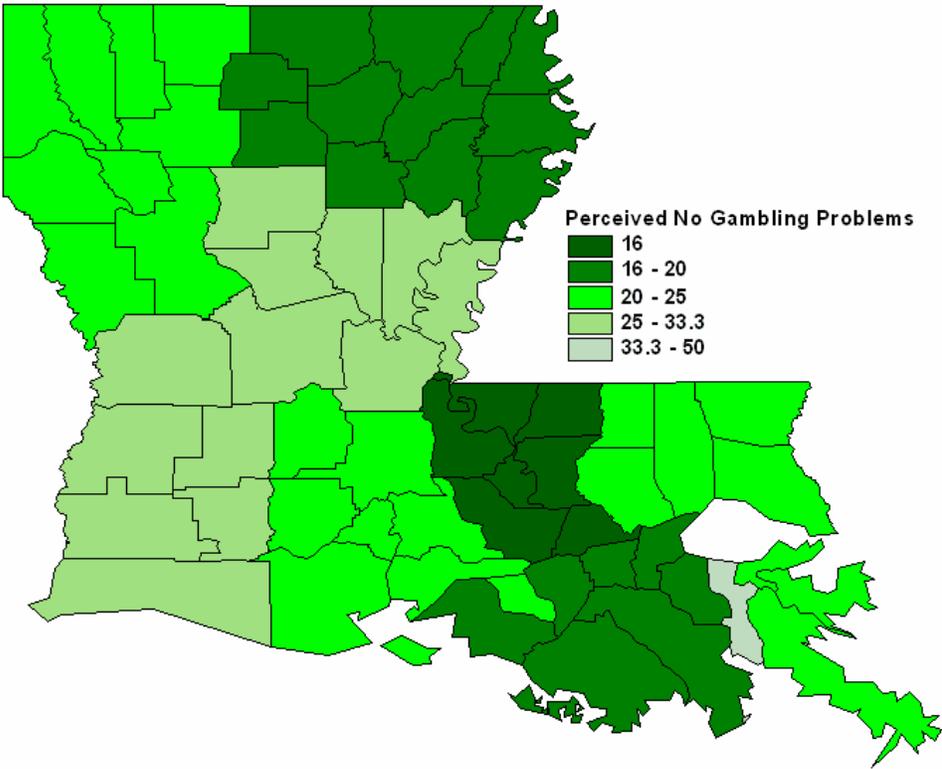
**TABLE 2, STATEWIDE Indicators of Gambling Problems**

	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
				Region 1		Region 1	
REGION	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	REGION	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	SHARE OF POP
<b>1</b>	22.2% (4)	44.5% (8)	33.3% (6)	1	16.0% (106)	424,498	13.1%
<b>CAHSD</b>	16% (4)	64% (16)	20% (5)	CAHSD	14.0% (93)	442,830	13.7%
<b>3</b>	18.8% (3)	62.4% (10)	18.8% (3)	3	8.8% (58)	272,890	8.4%
<b>4</b>	22.7% (5)	68.2% (15)	9.1% (2)	4	7.6% (50)	390,815	12.1%
<b>5</b>	33.3% (7)	57.2% (12)	9.5% (2)	5	4.4% (29)	207,010	6.4%
<b>6</b>	30.4% (7)	60.9% (14)	8.7% (2)	6	3.5% (23)	218,781	6.8%
<b>7</b>	25% (6)	58.3% (14)	16.7% (4)	7	18.9% (125)	381,687	11.8%
<b>8</b>	20% (3)	60% (9)	20% (3)	8	3.2% (21)	264,145	8.2%
<b>9</b>	22.7% (5)	54.6% (12)	22.7% (5)	9	4.4% (29)	314,029	9.7%
<b>JPHSA</b>	50% (3)	50% (3)	0	JPHSA	19.3% (128)	322,014	10.0%
<b>TOTALS (n=192)</b>	24.5% (47)	58.9% (113)	16.7% (32)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=662	3,233,151	

**Figure 5**  
**Major Gambling Problem Perceived**



**Figure 6**  
**No Gambling Problem Perceived**



half in both gambling sites per capita and gambling devices per capita. The second cluster, where the calls are about the same levels as the population, include Regions 3 and CAHSD. The final group, where there were fewer calls than their proportion of the population, includes Regions 4,5,6,8, and 9. Other than Region 5, these locales are in the bottom half of the State in both sites per capita and devices per capita. Region 5, though, in and around Lake Charles has numerous gambling sites and casinos. It ranks first in the State in sites per capita and third in devices per capita. Why then does this region provide so few calls to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline? Although we cannot provide an unqualified answer to this question, we can offer some suppositions. Perhaps the great majority of the individuals visiting the gambling sites are from Texas or other venues outside of the immediate district. Or maybe the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline advertising is not as pervasive in this region as in other sections that have a number of gambling sites.

#### **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – STATEWIDE**

There will be a change here from the manner in which the regional analyses were provided for the various gambling activities. In Table 3, which follows, each of the gambling activities will be examined using statewide data. Following that, the most common activities will be looked at regionally, as well as statewide, in Table 4.

Among the respondents to the telephone interviews, the most common gambling activities engaged in during the previous year were going to casinos (54.5%), playing the numbers or lottery (39.3%), and playing slot machines (37.0%). Of the twelve different activities that individuals were questioned about, nine were engaged in by at least 10% of respondents throughout the State. Of these events, the ones with the highest conversion rates (which measures the percentage of weekly participants of those who engage in an event) were the stock market (34.3%), playing the lottery (20.9%), and playing cards (16.5%).

For the high school principals, two activities appeared to be major problems much more than any others, playing dice games (13.0%) and playing card games (9.5%). It should be mentioned that usage of many of the activities in the survey by adolescents were regulated. These activities, betting on animals (1.6%), going to casino (1.1%),

playing the lottery (1.6%), and playing slot or gambling machines (1.1%), were consistently low in the principals' appraisal. Thus, it appears that the enforcement agencies and the entrepreneurs are consistently doing a fine job in prohibiting usage among adolescents, in the opinion of the high school administrators.

There are two main activities that individuals calling the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline seek assistance with, going to casinos (76.2%) and playing slot/gambling machines (37.7%). As was stated in some of the regional analyses in the previous chapter, at least part of the reason for this may be the widespread availability of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline information at casinos and other gambling venues. Another reason for the dominance of casinos in this dataset may be that, compared to some other forms of gambling mentioned, gambling there is conducted in a closed environment, which might induce individuals to lose more than they planned, causing them to recognize or believe that they have a gambling problem.

**TABLE 3, STATEWIDE Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>7</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	24.9	16.5	9.5%	4.2
Bet on Animals	16.8	10.1	1.6%	2.9
Bet on Sports	12.6	13.5	.5%	1.7
Dice Games	8.2	19.5	13.0%	1.8
Went to Casino	54.5	12.3	1.1%	76.2
Numbers/Lottery	39.3	20.9	1.6%	8.8
Played Bingo	22.2	9.5	4.2%	2.6
Stock Market	14.0	34.3	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	37.0	13.8	1.1%	37.7
Played Sports or Games for Money	7.2	19.4	3.2%	.2
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	7.4	12.2	2.1%	0
Other	5.3	3.8	1.4%	1.7
<b>Total Responses</b>			N=190	

**POPULAR GAMBLING ACTIVITIES**

In Table 4, the three most popular gambling activities in the State are looked at to see how their usage differs among the regions. Also, the percentage of respondents in each region who gamble and their usage of gambling will be compared to one another. The three regions that have the highest rates of individuals who go to casinos are Regions 1, 3, and JPHSA. Over 60% of respondents in each of these regions asserted that they have gone to casinos. The interesting notation about this is that all three of these regions are situated in the southeastern sector of the State, in and around the mouth of the Mississippi River. The areas with the lowest rates of casino usage, below 50% in each,

<sup>7</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

were Regions 5, 6, and 8. The areas of the State where those who went to casinos were most likely to go once a week or more were Regions 1 and 4, where the conversion rates for each were around 20%. The two lowest conversion rates occurred in Regions 5 and 8, each around 2%. The implication to this latter figure is that for residents of those regions, about one in fifty who go to casinos do so weekly.

The sections that have the highest percentage of respondents who play the lottery (or the numbers) are Regions 1, 3, 4, and JPHSA, all of which exceed 45%. The three lowest in lottery usage are Regions 5, 6, and 7, each of which is at 30% or less. Once again, as in the case of casinos, there is a wide divergence of conversion rates in different regions. The three regions with conversion rates greater than 25% are Regions 1, 4, and JPHSA, all of which were among the leaders in lottery usage, as well. The regions that had conversion rates of 10% or less were Regions 6 and CAHSD.

The last gambling activity looked at in depth in this table is playing slot or gambling machines. The usage trends here are different than in the previous two analyses. Here, the regions with the highest percentages of playing slot or gambling machines are Regions 1, 4, and 9, each of which is between 40-50%. The remainder of the regions has between 30-40% of respondents who play slot or gambling machines. Looking at conversion rates for slot machines, Region 4 has a conversion rate 50% higher than any other region, implying that many more respondents in this area who play gambling machines, do so weekly, than other section of the State. The two lowest conversion rates are in Regions 5 and 9.

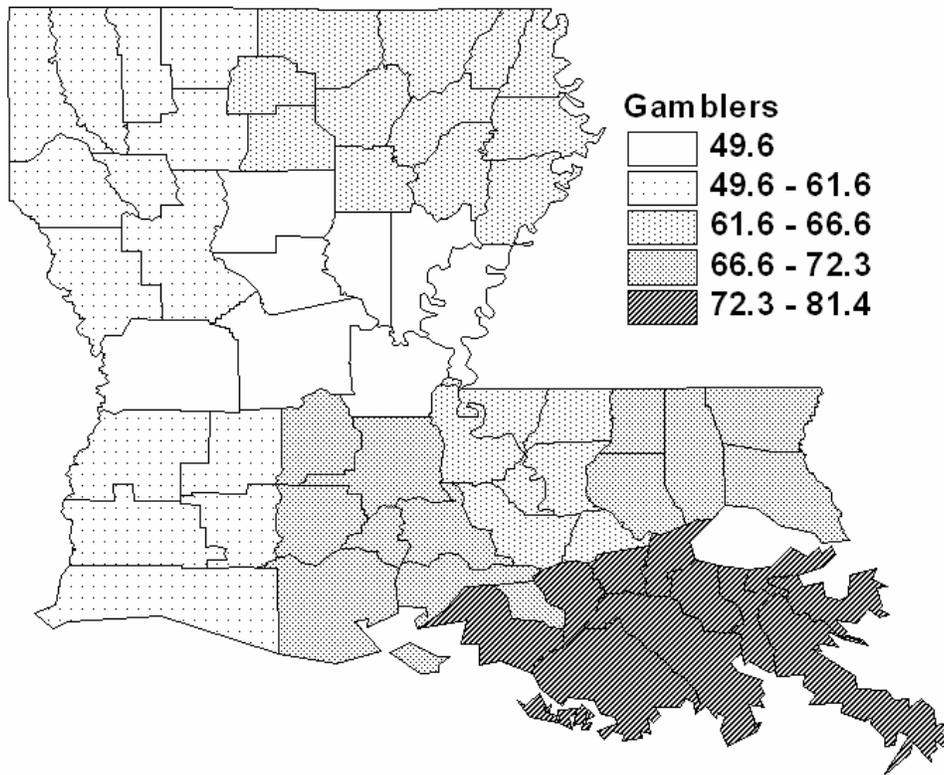
The final column in this table illustrates the percentage of those interviewed who gambled on any activity in each region. The areas of the State that had the highest rate of gambling participation are Regions 1, 3, and JPHSA, each of which was around 80%. On the other hand, Region 6 had, by far, the lowest percentage of respondents who gambled. While less than half of those interviewed acknowledged gambling in the last year, no other region was below 60%. Region 1 also had the highest conversion rate, exceeding 50%. The implication to this is that over 40% of those interviewed in Region 1 gamble at least weekly. This is nearly double the similar rate for any other area of the State. The lowest conversion rates are in Regions 5, 7, and CAHSD, each of which was below 25%.

**TABLE 4, STATEWIDE Popular Gambling Activities, by Region****(Ever Bet On %/Conversion Rate %)**

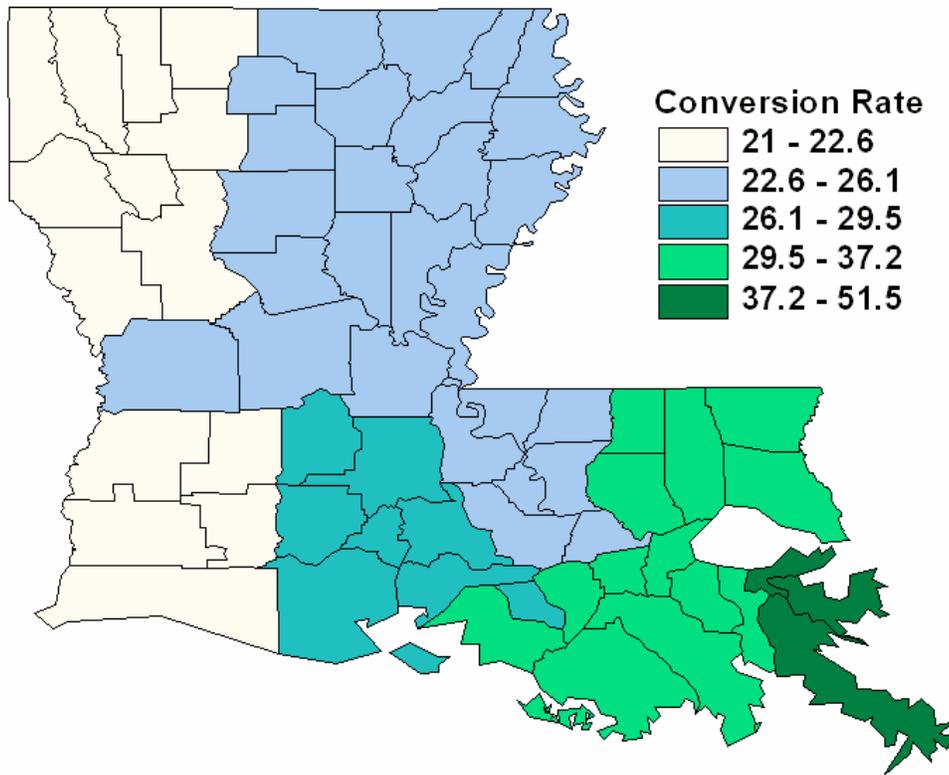
<b>REGION</b>	<b>WENT TO CASINO</b>	<b>PLAYED LOTTERY</b>	<b>PLAYED SLOT MACHINES</b>	<b>GAMBLER</b>
<b>1</b>	70.1/23.1	48.8/40.8	42.7/15.9	81.4/51.5
<b>CAHSD</b>	53.8/15.4	37.9/10.0	31.1/17.0	66.6/21.1
<b>3</b>	63.8/12.5	47.8/18.2	37.9/15.3	80.5/31.6
<b>4</b>	53.9/19.1	46.2/26.4	41.0/23.4	71.8/29.5
<b>5</b>	45.5/1.8	27.3/13.9	31.0/4.8	60.9/21.0
<b>6</b>	41.2/10.2	25.2/9.9	30.3/13.9	49.6/25.4
<b>7</b>	54.0/7.4	30.6/17.3	31.3/16.9	61.6/22.6
<b>8</b>	49.2/2.0	36.3/18.7	39.3/9.7	64.4/24.7
<b>9</b>	57.8/9.5	51.2/21.3	47.6/4.8	72.3/32.9
<b>JPHSA</b>	64.3/15.4	45.2/28.0	38.8/16.9	78.4/37.2
<b>TOTALS</b>	54.5/12.3	39.3/20.9	37.0/13.8	67.7/29.8

# Figure 7a

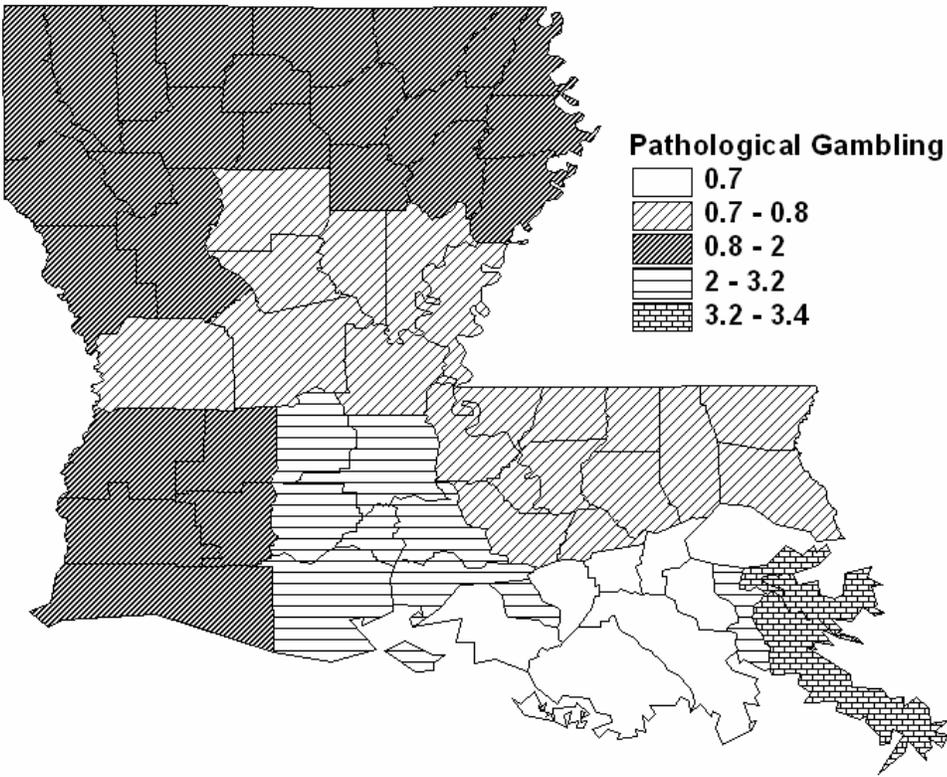
## Gamblers



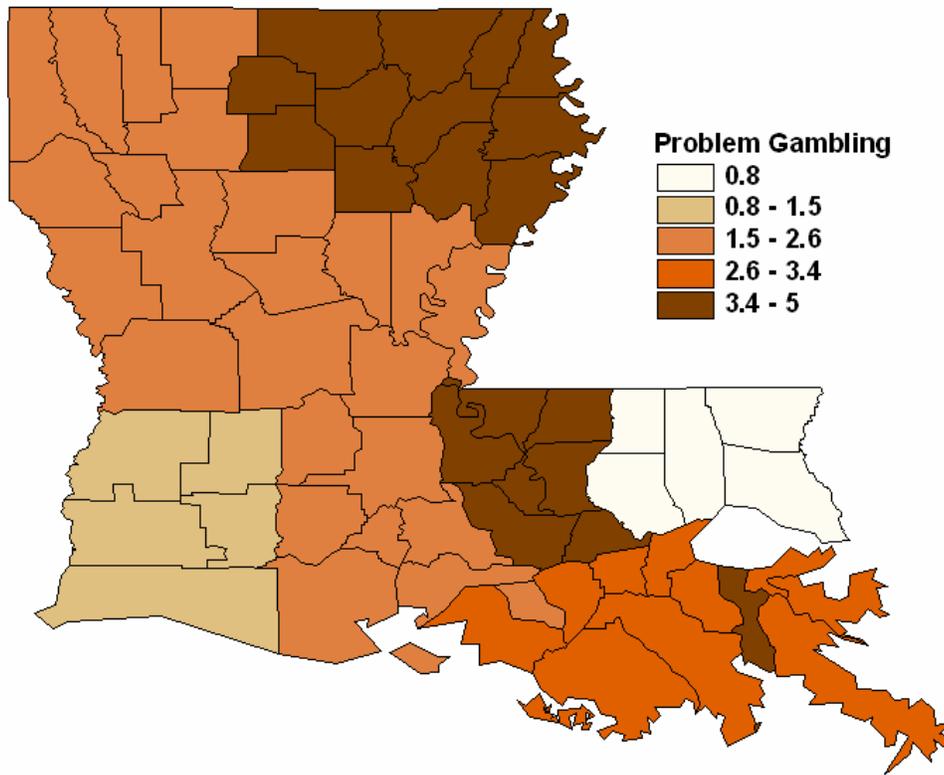
# Figure 7b Conversion Rate



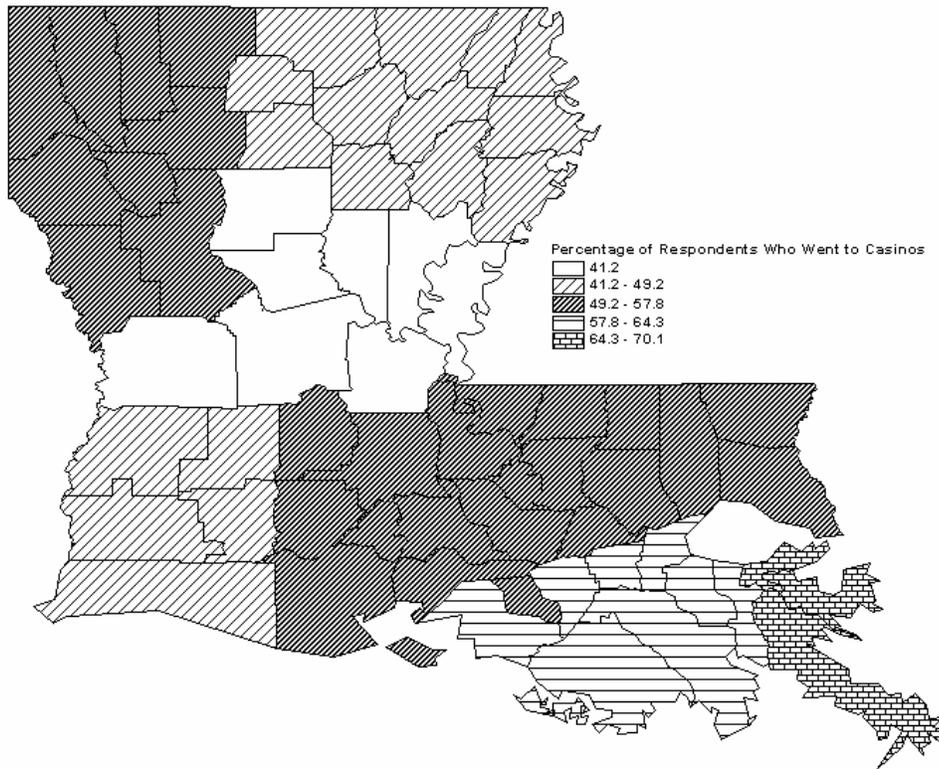
**Figure 8a**  
**Pathological Gambling**



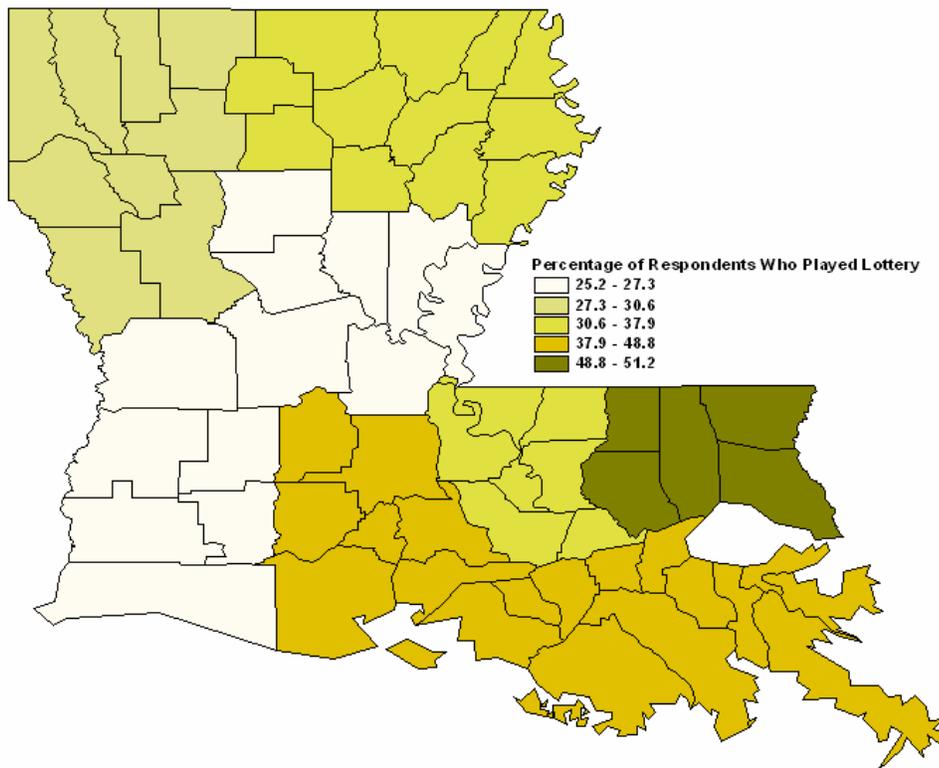
# Figure 8b Problem Gambling



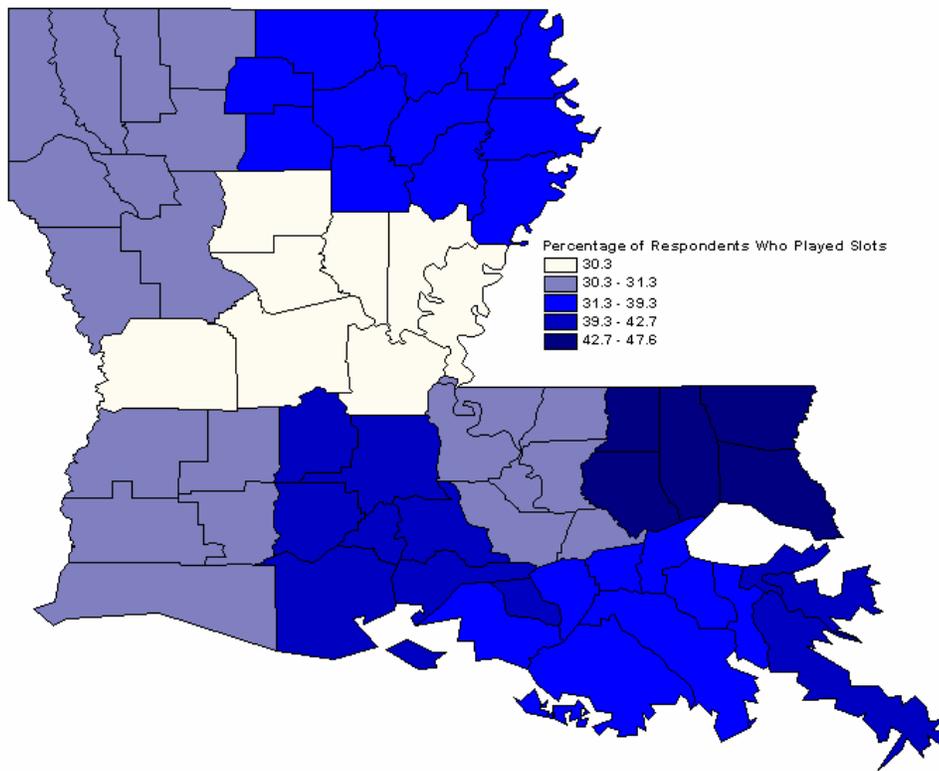
# Figure 9 Percentage of Respondents Who Go To Casinos



# Figure 10 Percent of Respondents Who Play Lottery



**Figure 11**  
**Percentage of Respondents**  
**Who Play Slots**



## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – STATEWIDE**

Since the 1980's, pathological gambling has been defined as a clinical psychiatric disorder. The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition (DSM-III) defined the diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling. In the DSM-IV, the definition of pathological gambling was revised as a chronic and progressive failure to resist impulses to gamble, that compromises, disrupts, or damages personal, family, or vocational pursuits (Westphal, et al, 2000).

Pathological gambling has a number of devastating consequences for the affected individual. These include a loss of control when gambling, either continual or periodic, an increase in either/both the gambling frequency and the amounts wagered, and an obsession with gambling and procuring funds with which to gamble (Westphal, et al, 2000). There are a number of criteria exhibited by pathological gamblers: (1) preoccupation with gambling; (2) a need to increase the excitement produced by gambling; (3) restlessness or irritability when unable to gamble; (4) repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling; (5) gambling in an effort to win back the amount of money lost during gambling on a previous day; (6) gambling in an effort to escape a dysphoric mood; (7) lying to cover up gambling; (8) jeopardizing a significant job, relationship, or educational opportunity by gambling; (9) engaging in illegal activity to finance gambling; and (10) seeking others to relieve a desperate financial situation produced by gambling (American Psychiatric Association, 1994).

Problem gambling, on the other hand, has not yet been defined by the American Psychological Association. In 1994, Shaffer et al developed a system that classified gambling behaviors into three separate levels of severity. Level 1 gamblers suffer little or no adverse consequences from their gambling endeavors. Level 2 gamblers have encountered some adverse consequences in some areas of their lives but the dysfunction has not reached the level of pathology, as yet. Level 3 gamblers are pathological gamblers. They experience the most severe consequences from their gambling behavior. In order to maintain consistency with previous reports on problem and pathological gambling in Louisiana, we will use Level 2 behaviors to describe problem gambling, and Level 3 behaviors to describe pathological gambling (Westphal, et al, 2000).

Table 5 examines the levels of problem and pathological gamblers in each of the regions of Louisiana. There are two regions of the State where the levels of both problem and pathological gambling are higher than the statewide averages. These two regions adjoin each other, Region 1 and JPHSA, in the southeastern sector of the State. These two regions also lead the State when we estimate the potential number of problem and pathological gamblers in their geographic areas.

**TABLE 5, STATEWIDE Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling, by Region**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>% OF PROBLEM GAMBLERS</b>	<b>% OF PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS</b>	<b># OF PROBLEM GAMBLERS (UP TO)</b>	<b># OF PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS (UP TO)</b>
<b>1</b>	3.4	3.4	28,000	28,000
<b>CAHSD</b>	3.8	.8	31,400	10,300
<b>3</b>	2.9	.7	15,600	5,700
<b>4</b>	2.6	3.2	19,900	23,300
<b>5</b>	1.5	1.5	7,400	7,400
<b>6</b>	2.5	.8	11,600	5,300
<b>7</b>	2.6	2.0	20,800	17,200
<b>8</b>	3.8	1.5	18,700	9,400
<b>9</b>	.8	.8	7,300	7,300
<b>JPHSA</b>	5.0	3.0	28,200	19,100
<b>TOTALS</b>	3.0	1.6	67,900-126,000	29,100-74,400

Next, we shall see how the pattern of problem and pathological gambling in the 2002 study compares to those in previous studies of Louisiana. There has been virtually no change in the pathological gambling rates in the three studies conducted over a seven year time period. This remarkably stable set of numbers may reflect that there are a core number of individuals who suffer from severe problems caused by gambling over the course of their lifetimes. On the other hand, the steep decline found in the 1998 survey in the area of problem gambling has been reversed, and the 3.0% rate found in this study shows a return nearly to the 1995 levels. The reason for this increase to earlier levels may be statistical in nature. That is, perhaps the numbers found in 1998 were anomalous to the sample constructed at that time. Each random sample takes on its own set of values,

which may not represent the true values of the population it is purported to represent. But repeated sampling of a population eventually reveals to us the true population values, hence the term regressing to the mean.

**TABLE 6, STATEWIDE Changes in Problem and Pathological Gambling  
Prevalence**

	<b>1995 Prevalence</b>	<b>1998 Prevalence</b>	<b>2002Prevalence</b>
<b>Current Problem</b>	3.4	2.3	3.0
<b>Current Pathological</b>	1.4	1.6	1.6

## **CHAPTER 4 – Regional Analyses**

In the previous chapter, statewide data was examined, and differences between regions was analyzed and discussed. In this chapter, each region will be scrutinized in more detail, and notable features of each will be discussed.

### **REGION 1**

Region 1 (Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes) is located in the southeastern part of the State of Louisiana, with a population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau as of 2000 to be 578,660. This is a decline of 10,484 since 1990, or 1.8%. Orleans is the most populous parish in the region, with about 84% of the region's population located within its borders. Region 1 is centered in New Orleans, one of the most important cities in the United States. The region is heavily dependent on tourism, especially adult tourism, from around the nation and the world. New Orleans, especially, is viewed as an adult playground, sort of a Disneyland for grown-ups. There are hopes that legalized gambling will increase the amount of dollars that these tourists spend while visiting the region.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 1**

In Table 1, we see the prevalence of gambling establishments and devices in each parish in the region. Controlling for adult population, the data show that Orleans has a much lower number of sites per capita than the other two parishes in the region. However, when we look at the amount of legal gaming devices, Orleans Parish has about twice as many as Plaquemines Parish, and about one and a half more devices per capita than are in St. Bernard Parish.

Comparing Region 1 to other sections of the State, it ranks third in the number of gambling sites per capita, and fourth in the amount of devices per capita.

**TABLE 1, REGION 1 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
Orleans	355,266	533	1.50	5755	16.20
Plaquemines	18,944	52	2.74	155	8.18
St. Bernard	50,288	108	2.15	516	10.26
TOTAL	424,498	693	1.63	6426	15.14

**PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 1**

In Table 2, three separate sets of information are combined; surveys received from high school principals, calls made to Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline from January through June 2002, and adult population in the parishes. When we examine the overall responses from high school principals serving in Region 1, we see that one-third of all principals who responded to the survey believe that there are major problems relating to gambling among their students. This percentage is much higher than in any other region of the State. Indeed, fourteen out of eighteen principals in this region believe that there are gambling problems among the students at the school in which they operate. The perceived problems are even worse for those serving in Orleans Parish. Forty percent of the principals assert that they believe that major gambling problems exist among the student body; another 40% believe that minor gambling problems are present. Likewise, the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline received the lion’s share of its Region 1 calls from Orleans Parish. This parish has nearly 84% of the region’s adult population, but over 87% of calls made from this region came from Orleans. St. Bernard Parish, with nearly 12% of the adult population of the region, only accounted for 7.5% of calls to the Helpline.

**GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 1**

Table 3 shows how often different gambling activities surface as problems for Region 1 inhabitants in the different data sets. For the random interviews that were conducted, 70.1% reported that they had gambled at a casino at some point over the previous year. Other activities that were named by respondents with some frequency included playing the lottery (48.8%) and playing gambling machine (42.7%). Of the

activities that people mentioned were conducted at least once per week, the two most cited activities were playing the lottery (40.8%) and playing sports or games for money (31.5%).

Over one-fifth of the high school principals found that major problems existed with two different types of gambling activities, playing cards (27.8%) and playing dice games (27.8%). An interesting facet of the principals' responses was that although a number of them felt that gambling problems were a major problem among their students, no regulated activities were cited. Thus, it appears that in this region, the State police and other regulatory agencies seeking to keep adolescents away from gambling sites are doing a good job, in the opinion of the high school administrators.

Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers from Region 1 cited casino betting (79.2%) much more than any other activity. This was more than three times as many callers as the next most listed activity, slot/gambling machines (25.5%). One of the reasons for this might be that casino gaming is conducted within a more closed environment, generally, than are other activities, which might lead to people losing more money than they had originally budgeted upon visiting. Thus, this might induce them to feel that they have a problem. Also, since many casinos have the Gamblers Helpline toll-free number readily available, unlike other gaming venues, more casino patrons might call for assistance, compared to alternative activities.

When we compare the responses given by individuals from Region 1 to those from other areas of the State, we see that a higher percentage of them reported going to casinos than in any other area. They also went to casinos more frequently than did those from other sections of the State. Respondents ranked second overall in the percentage that play the lottery; those who do this do so more frequently than do those in other parts of the State. Also, a higher percentage of those interviewed from Region 1 played slot machines than from other sections of Louisiana. In total, a larger number of respondents here acknowledged that they gambled, and gambled more frequently than others did.

## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 1**

Finally, Table 4 shows the percentage of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 1 and statewide, as determined from the results of the individual level phone

surveys conducted during the summer of 2002. As can be seen, the rates of both problem and pathological gambling are higher within the region (from those sampled) than exists statewide. Due to the relatively small sample size within each of the regions, our estimations have a wide confidence interval, so it is difficult to measure the amount of problem and pathological gamblers within a region with any precision. However, the estimated number of problem (28,400) and pathological (28,400) gamblers should provide a somewhat accurate upper bound for this region.

**TABLE 2, REGION 1 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>ORLEANS (n=15)</b>	20% (3)	40% (6)	40% (6)	<b>ORLEANS</b>	87.7% (N=93)	355,266	83.7%
<b>PLAQUEMINES (n=2)</b>	0	100% (2)	0	<b>PLAQUEMINES</b>	4.7% (N=5)	18,944	4.4%
<b>ST. BERNARD (n=1)</b>	100% (1)	0	0	<b>ST. BERNARD</b>	7.5% (N=8)	50,288	11.8%
<b>TOTALS (n=18)</b>	22.2% (4)	44.5% (8)	33.3% (6)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=106	424,498	

**TABLE 3, REGION 1 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>8</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	33.3	28.2	27.8% (5)	4.7% (5)
Bet on Animals	23.1	26.0	0	2.8% (3)
Bet on Sports	20.5	16.6	5.6% (1)	3.8% (4)
Dice Games	15.4	16.9	22.2% (5)	1.9% (2)
Went to Casino	70.1	23.1	0	79.2% (84)
Numbers/Lottery	48.8	40.8	0	12.3% (13)
Played Bingo	27.4	15.7	0	6.6% (7)
Stock Market	18.8	27.1	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	42.7	15.9	0	25.5% (27)
Played Sports or Games for Money	16.2	31.5	5.6% (1)	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	12.1	21.5	5.6% (1)	0
Other	6.0	15.0	0	3.8% (4)
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=117		N=18	N=106

**TABLE 4, REGION 1 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

Category	Region 1	Statewide
Adult Population	424,498	3,233,151
Sample Size	117	1353
Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling	3.4% (6)	3.0% (41)
Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling	3.4% (6)	1.6% (22)
Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers	Up to 28,400	67,900 – 126,000
Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers	Up to 28,400	29,100 – 74,400

<sup>8</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

## REGION 2 - CAPITAL AREA HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT (CAHSD)

Region 2 or CAHSD (Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes) is located in the east-central part of Louisiana, with a population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau as of 2000 to be 603,634. This is an increase of 60,181 since 1990 or 11.1%. The adult population is 442,830. East Baton Rouge is the most populous parish in the region, although many of the other parishes are responsible for much of the growth. The region's major industries are government, education, and oil-related firms.

### GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS - CAHSD

In Table 1, CAHSD, we see the prevalence of gambling establishments and devices in each parish in the region. The number of sites per parish is very widespread, with two parishes having no gaming sites, and East Baton Rouge only having two settings where gambling is legal, both of which are riverboat casinos. On the other extreme, Iberville and West Baton Rouge parishes each have over 60 different sites offering some form of gambling. When the gambling sites are examined on a per capita basis, the parishes become almost dichotomous in nature, with three parishes having about zero, and the other four ranging from 1.83 to 4.19 per thousand adults.

**TABLE 1, CAHSD Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

PARISH	ADULT POP	GAMBLING SITES	SITES/1000 ADULTS	GAMBLING DEVICES	DEVICES/1000 ADULTS
<b>Ascension</b>	53,562	0	0	0	0
<b>E. Baton Rouge</b>	304,685	2	.01	1762	5.78
<b>E. Feliciana</b>	15,870	0	0	0	0
<b>Iberville</b>	24,590	69	2.81	374	15.21
<b>Pointe Coupee</b>	16,549	39	2.36	183	11.06
<b>W. Baton Rouge</b>	15,531	65	4.19	929	59.82
<b>W. Feliciana</b>	12,043	22	1.83	165	13.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	442,830	197	.44	3413	7.70

The amount of gambling devices per parish present a different picture, with East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge Parishes having the most, by far. Because of the variations in parish population, West Baton Rouge far exceeds the others in per capita devices, with nearly five times as many devices per capita as any of the other parishes. Comparing CAHSD to other parts of the State, the region has about half as many sites per capita and devices per capita as the statewide averages.

### **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING - CAHSD**

In Table 2, three separate sets of information are combined; surveys received from high school principals, calls made to Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline from January through June 2002, and adult population in the parishes. When the overall responses from principals serving in CAHSD are examined, 20% of them believe that there are major gambling problems among their students. Another 64% think that students have a minor gambling problem. Thus, in five of every six high schools whose principals responded to the surveys, the administrators believe that there is a gambling problem. This number is greater than in any other region. The perception of problems appear to be most prevalent among the Iberville Parish principals, since each of them reported some level of problems among students in their schools.

When the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers are compared to the adult populations in each parish, we see that there is a close relationship between the two sets of figures. Iberville, West Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parishes had rates slightly higher than expected; the others were somewhat below.

### **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES - CAHSD**

Table 3 shows how prevalent different gambling activities are in the three data sets that were used for this study for respondents in CAHSD. When we examine the telephone interviews that were conducted during the summer of 2002, the findings show that the most common gambling activity conducted by the respondents in CAHSD was going to casinos, with more than half having visited casinos during the last year. Other frequently mentioned activities included playing the lottery, playing slot or gambling machines, or playing cards, each mentioned by more than one-quarter of the individuals surveyed. Of the above frequently enjoyed pastimes, less than 20% of those who partook

in them did so more than once per week. Slightly less respondents in this region gambled in the above activities than the statewide averages of each. As well, slightly fewer respondents from CAHSD gambled than was the statewide average.

**TABLE 2, CAHSD Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Ascension</b>	25% (1)	75% (3)	0	<b>Ascension</b>	10.8% (10)	53,562	12.1%
<b>E. Baton Rouge</b>	15.4% (2)	69.2% (9)	15.4% (2)	<b>E. Baton Rouge</b>	71.0% (66)	304,685	68.8%
<b>E. Feliciana</b>	0	66.7% (2)	33.3% (1)	<b>E. Feliciana</b>	1.1 (1)	15,870	3.6%
<b>Iberville</b>	0	33.3% (1)	66.7% (2)	<b>Iberville</b>	7.5 (7)	24,590	5.6%
<b>Pointe Coupee</b>	-	-	-	<b>Pointe Coupee</b>	4.3 (4)	16,549	3.7%
<b>W. Baton Rouge</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>W. Baton Rouge</b>	4.3 (4)	15,531	3.5%
<b>W. Feliciana</b>	-	-	-	<b>W. Feliciana</b>	1.1 (1)	12,043	2.7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	16% (4)	64% (16)	20% (5)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=93	442,830	

The only gambling activity mentioned by more than one high school principal in CAHSD as a major problem among the students was playing dice games, which was noted by three principals in the region. Another notable feature of the principals' responses was that none of them believed that the legalized gambling entities were a major source of gambling problems for their students.

By far, the most reported activity cited by Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers was casino wagering (81.9%). This was more than twice as many callers as the next most listed activity, slot/gambling machines (31.9%). No other activity was named by even 10% of callers. As stated in the previous chapter, one of the reasons for the predominance of casino gaming by Helpline callers might be that casino gaming is conducted within a more closed environment, generally, than are other activities, which might lead to people losing more money than they had originally budgeted upon visiting. Thus, this might induce them to feel that they have a problem. Also, since many casinos have the Gamblers Helpline toll-free number readily available, unlike other gaming venues, more casino patrons might call for assistance, compared to alternative activities.

#### **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING - CAHSD**

Finally, Table 4 shows the percentage of problem and pathological gamblers in CAHSD and statewide, as determined from the results of the individual level phone surveys conducted during the summer of 2002. As can be seen, the rate of problem gambling is higher within the region and the rate of pathological gambling is lower within the region (from those sampled) than exists statewide. Due to the relatively small sample size within each of the regions, our estimations have a wide confidence interval, so it is difficult to measure the amount of problem and pathological gamblers within a region with any exactitude. However, the estimated number of problem (31,400) and pathological (10,300) gamblers should provide a somewhat accurate upper bound for this region.

**TABLE 3, CAHSD Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Hotline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>9</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	25.7	11.7	4.2% (1)	6.4
Bet on Animals	12.9	0	0	3.2
Bet on Sports	16.0	5.0	0	1.1
Dice Games	5.3	17.8	12% (3)	3.2
Went to Casino	53.8	15.4	0	81.9
Numbers/Lottery	37.9	10.0	0	6.4
Played Bingo	12.9	11.6	4.2% (1)	2.1
Stock Market	11.4	20.2	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	31.1	17.0	0	31.9
Played Sports or Games for Money	3.1	74.2	4.2% (1)	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	6.0	25.0	0	0
Other	3.1	0	4.2% (1)	1.1
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=132		N=25	N=94

**TABLE 4, CAHSD Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling,**

Category	CAHSD	Statewide
Adult Population	442,831	3,233,151
Sample Size	132	1353
Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling	3.8% (5)	3.0%
Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling	.8% (1)	1.6%
Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers	Up to 31,400	67,900 – 126,000
Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers	Up to 10,300	29,100 – 74,400

<sup>9</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

### **REGION 3**

The parishes comprising Region 3 lie in the southeastern section of Louisiana. This portion of the State has some of the richest farmland in the nation, situated in the delta of the Mississippi River. The primary industries in this area are agriculture and oil-related firms. Its historical treasure, being one of the first settled areas in the South, matches the wealth of natural resources in this region. The largest city in the region, Houma, has about 35,000 residents, about one-tenth the total population of the region.

#### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 3**

Shown in Table 1, each of the parishes in Region 3 has some legal gambling within its borders. The number of sites varies widely though, as exhibited in Table 1. By far, Terrebonne (173 sites) and Lafourche (149 sites) parishes have the lion's share of gambling establishments, while St. John the Baptist Parish only has one gambling enterprise. Examining parishes by per capita sites, all of the parishes, except for St. John the Baptist have similar numbers. St. Mary's Parish has, by far, the most devices of any of the parishes in this region. Likewise, it has the most devices per capita, more than doubling the rate of any other parish. When comparing Region 3 to other parts of the State, it has the most sites per capita of any region. It also ranks highly in devices per capita, having about one and a half the average statewide.

**TABLE 1, Region 3 Gambling Establishments, by Parish and Region**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Assumption</b>	16,722	36	2.15	296	17.70
<b>Lafourche</b>	66,491	149	2.24	900	13.54
<b>St. Charles</b>	33,506	46	1.37	320	9.55
<b>St. James</b>	14,957	36	2.41	296	19.79
<b>St. John the Baptist</b>	29,614	1	.03	88	2.97
<b>St. Mary</b>	37,611	81	2.15	1770	47.06
<b>Terrebonne</b>	73,988	173	2.34	1394	18.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	272,890	522	1.91	5064	18.56

**PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 3**

Table 2 exhibits the impressions of student gambling held by different high school principals in the region, by parish. The problems appear to be widely spread, with major problems noted in Lafourche, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne parish schools. As well, each of the high schools in St. Mary’s Parish believe that gambling poses at least a minor problem among their student body.

The same table also shows the percentage of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers from each parish (of the overall regional calls). When we compare this number to the share of regional adult population in each parish, we see that the three parishes that are over-represented are Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne. Comparing these data to the figures in Table 2, it is easy to recognize that these same three parishes have by far the most devices in Region 3.

Comparing Region 3 data to that of other regions of Louisiana, principals believe that both minor and major gambling problems exist among their students at a slightly greater rate than is found statewide. The percentage of calls to Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline mirrors the percentage of the statewide population found in this region.

### **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 3**

Table 3 exhibits how often each of the different gambling activities appears as a problem in the different data sets. From the individual survey respondents, we see that more than one-third of the respondents assert that they either went to the casino (63.8%), played the lottery (47.8%), played slot machines (37.9%), played cards (36.3%) or played bingo (33.3%) in the last year. Of these activities, 27.6% of those who played cards reported that they did so on a weekly basis, much higher than the comparable figures for the other gambling endeavors. Fewer than one out of six respondents mentioned participating in any of the other gambling activities in the survey.

Very few principals felt that there were major gambling problems caused by any specific gambling activity in Region 3. The only activities mentioned by more than one responding principal were playing dice and playing cards.

**TABLE 2, Region 3 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
Assumption	-	-	-	Assumption	1.7% (1)	16,722	6.1%
Lafourche	0	75% (3)	25% (1)	Lafourche	29.3%(17)	66,491	24.4%
St. Charles	100% (1)	0	0	St. Charles	5.2%(3)	33,506	12.3%
St. James	100% (1)	0	0	St. James	3.4% (2)	14,957	5.5%
St. John the Baptist	0	0	100% (1)	St. John the Baptist	6.9% (4)	29,614	10.9%
St. Mary	0	100% (5)	0	St. Mary	17.2% (10)	37,611	13.8%
Terrebonne	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)	Terrebonne	36.2% (21)	73,988	27.1%
<b>TOTALS (n=16)</b>	18.8% (3)	62.4% (10)	18.8% (3)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N = 58	272,890	

Two activities, playing slot machines (63.8%) and going to casinos (56.9%) were responsible for almost all of the calls to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline that were made by individuals in Region 3. as discussed earlier, one of the reasons for the predominance of casino gaming by Helpline callers might be that casino gaming is conducted within a more closed environment, generally, than are other activities, which might lead to people losing more money than they had originally budgeted upon visiting. Thus, this might induce them to feel that they have a problem. Also, since many casinos have the Gamblers Helpline toll-free number readily available, unlike other gaming venues, more casino patrons might call for assistance, compared to alternative activities.

**TABLE 3, Region 3 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Hotline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>10</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	36.3	27.5	12.5% (2)	3.4
Bet on Animals	15.9	8.8	0	1.7
Bet on Sports	16.6	25.9	0	0
Dice Games	13.8	15.9	18.7% (3)	0
Went to Casino	63.8	12.5	6.7% (1)	56.9
Numbers/Lottery	47.8	18.2	0	6.9
Played Bingo	33.3	2.1	6.7% (1)	3.4
Stock Market	15.9	27.0	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	37.9	15.3	6.7% (1)	63.8
Played Sports or Games for Money	9.5	23.2	0	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	10.3	14.6	6.7% (1)	0
Other	5.8	0	0	1.7
Total Responses	N=138	N=138	N=16	N=58

Region 3 ranks above the statewide averages for all popular gambling activities. The conversion rate for casinos and playing slot machines is also higher than is found

<sup>10</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

statewide, although it is slightly lower for playing the lottery. More than 80% of respondents acknowledged gambling during the past year, which ranked second among regions. The conversion rate was also higher than the State average for all individuals who participated in the surveys.

### **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 3**

Finally, Table 4 shows the percentage of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 3 and statewide, as determined from the results of the individual level phone surveys conducted during the summer of 2002. As can be seen, the rate of problem gambling from those sampled in this region is about the same as the rate statewide. However, the rate of pathological gambling is much lower here than in Louisiana as a whole. As noted earlier, due to the relatively small sample size within each of the regions, our estimations have a wide confidence interval, so it is difficult to measure the amount of problem and pathological gamblers within a region with any exactitude. However, the estimated number of problem (15,600) and pathological (5,700) gamblers should provide a somewhat accurate upper bound for this region.

**TABLE 4, Region 3 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Region 1</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Adult Population</b>	272,890	3,233,151
<b>Sample Size</b>	138	1353
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling</b>	2.9%	3.0% (41)
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling</b>	.7%	1.6% (22)
<b>Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers</b>	Up to 15,600	67,900 – 126,000
<b>Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers</b>	Up to 5,700	29,100 – 74,400

## REGION 4

Region 4 lies in the center of Evangeline country, rich in history and charm. The region's population as of 2000 was about 550,000, an increase of 50,000 since 1990. Lafayette is the hub city of the region, with a manufacturing center devoted to the oil industry.

### GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 4

Table 1 shows the prevalence of gambling establishments and devices in each of the parishes in the region. Of the seven parishes comprising this region, only three (Acadia, St. Landry, and St. Martin) have legalized gambling within their borders. St. Martin Parish has slightly more gambling sites than the other two, on a per capita basis. St. Martin Parish also has more gambling devices than the other parishes, when looked at using raw numbers and on a per capita approach. When comparing these figures to those from other regions, Region 4 has slightly fewer sites per capita than the statewide average, and less than half as many devices per capita as exists statewide.

**TABLE 1, Region 4 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

PARISH	ADULT POP	GAMBLING SITES	SITES/1000 ADULTS	GAMBLING DEVICES	DEVICES/1000 ADULTS
Acadia	41,320	68	1.65	616	14.91
Evangeline	24,946	0	0	0	0
Iberia	51,286	0	0	0	0
Lafayette	138,496	0	0	0	0
St. Landry	61,829	100	1.62	656	10.61
St. Martin	34,251	88	2.57	964	28.15
Vermillion	38,687	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	390,815	256	.66	2236	5.72

**TABLE 2, Region 4 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Acadia (n=3)</b>	33.3% (1)	66.7% (2)	0	<b>Acadia</b>	8% (4)	41,320	10.6%
<b>Evangeline (n=4)</b>	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)	<b>Evangeline</b>	-	24,946	6.4%
<b>Iberia (n=4)</b>	25% (1)	50% (2)	25% (1)	<b>Iberia</b>	20% (10)	51,286	13.1%
<b>Lafayette (n=2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>Lafayette</b>	34% (17)	138,496	35.4%
<b>St. Landry (n=5)</b>	0	100% (5)	0	<b>St. Landry</b>	22% (11)	61,829	15.8%
<b>St. Martin (n=2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (2)	0	<b>St. Martin</b>	10% (5)	34,251	8.8%
<b>Vermillion (n=2)</b>	0	100% (2)	0	<b>Vermillion</b>	4% (2)	38,687	9.9%
<b>TOTALS (n = 22)</b>	22.7% (5)	68.2% (15)	9.1% (2)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=50	390,815	

## **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING, REGION 4**

Table 2 shows that of the 22 high school principals in Region 4 who responded to the survey, seventeen (78%) believe that gambling poses problems among their students. Of these, only two, less than 10% of those who replied, described the perceived prevalence of gambling among students as major. Although fewer principals believe that there are major gambling problems among their students, a slightly greater percentage believes that some type of gambling problems affect the students than exists statewide.

Table 2 also provides a look at the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls made during the first half of 2002. In most of the parishes, the percentage of calls is about the same as the regional share of the population. Three parishes deviated from this pattern; Iberia and St. Landry Parishes have about one and a half times more calls than expected while Vermillion Parish has about half as many calls as one would anticipate, given the number of adults residing there. Overall, Region 4 residents called the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline much less frequently than their population would lead one to expect.

## **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 4**

In Region 4, there were a wide variety of gambling activities that were indulged in by the participants, as seen in Table 3. Seven different activities received support from at least one-fifth of the respondents to the individual surveys conducted in this region. Of these, the ones that had the most participants were slot/gambling machines (41%), going to casinos (53.9%), and playing the lottery (46.2%). The conversion rate, which measures the percentage of those who participated at least weekly, out of the total who participated in the activity, shows a remarkable similarity in frequent users among the seven different leisurely pursuits mentioned above.

The principal surveys conducted in this region found that the respondents generally agreed that there were few major gambling problems perceived to exist among their students, with only five separate problems noted among the 22 questionnaires that were received, and these were spread among five different topics.

Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls for assistance from Region 4 were concentrated in two different activities, playing slot/gambling machines and going to

casinos. As discussed in an earlier section of this chapter, one of the reasons for the predominance of casino gaming by Helpline callers might be that casino gaming is conducted within a more closed environment, generally, than are other activities, which might lead to people losing more money than they had originally budgeted upon visiting. Thus, this might induce them to feel that they have a problem. Also, since many casinos have the Gamblers Helpline toll-free number readily available, unlike other gaming venues, more casino patrons might call for assistance, compared to alternative activities.

When comparing the results from Region 4 to those from other regions of the State, the data are mixed. Respondents here tended to play the lottery or slot machines at higher rates than the State average, but went to casinos slightly less. Those who did enjoy these activities were much more likely to go there weekly, however. As well, a slightly higher percentage of respondents from Region 4 asserted that they gambled (71.8%) than was the State average.

**TABLE 3, Region 4 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>11</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	33.4	17.4	4.5%	6.0
Bet on Animals	19.8	19.2	0	2.0
Bet on Sports	13.4	28.4	0	2.0
Dice Games	9.7	26.8	4.5%	2.0
Went to Casino	53.9	19.1	4.5%	56.0
Numbers/Lottery	46.2	26.4	4.5%	14.0
Played Bingo	27.5	18.5	0	0
Stock Market	19.2	26.6	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	41.0	23.4	4.5%	64.0
Played Sports or Games for Money	6.4	29.7	0	2.0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	12.9	14.7	0	0
Other	10.6	6.6	0	0
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=156	N=156	N=22	n=50

**PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 4**

Table 4 compares the percentages of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 4 to the statewide percentages from the overall sample. We see that of the 156 respondents in this region, 2.6% were calculated (by their SOGS score) to be problem gamblers, which is slightly below the statewide figure. Another 3.2% were estimated to be pathological gamblers, double the statewide amount. This latter figure may be a portent of gambling problems in this region, although with such a small sample size, we cannot have a great deal of confidence in the

<sup>11</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

exactness of the figures. However, using the upper bound of confidence intervals, which takes sample size into account, we can estimate that there may be up to 23,000 pathological gamblers residing within these parishes.

**TABLE 4, Region 4 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Adult Population</b>	390,815	3,233,151
<b>Sample Size</b>	156	1353
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling</b>	2.6%	3.0% (41)
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling</b>	3.2%	1.6% (22)
<b>Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers</b>	Up to 19,900	67,900 – 126,000
<b>Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers</b>	Up to 23,300	29,100 – 74,400

## **REGION 5**

Region 5 is composed of several parishes in southwestern Louisiana. There are more than 280,000 adult residents of this region, an increase of 24,000 since 1990. Calcasieu is the most populous parish in the region, containing about 80% of the total population of the region. The most populous city in the region is Lake Charles, located in Calcasieu Parish. The gaming industry in this region has orbited around the casinos of this urban center, and relies upon tourists from nearby areas of Texas for much of its revenues. .

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 5**

Table 1 looks at gambling establishments in four different ways: gambling sites, sites per capita, gambling devices, and devices per capita. Eighty percent of the gambling sites in this region are located in the largest population center, Calcasieu Parish. The remaining sites are spread unevenly through four others, with Beauregard being the lone area without legalized gambling within its borders. Considering sites per capita, Cameron Parish has about twice as high a ratio as Calcasieu, since the divergence in population is so large between the two areas.

Moving to gambling devices, we find that they are concentrated in two parishes, Calcasieu and Allen (which has but one site). Nearly 99% of all of the devices in Region 5 are in one or the other of these locales. Finally, Allen Parish has, by far, the largest number of devices per capita, with a ratio five times higher than the next highest parish, Calcasieu.

Comparing the regional numbers to the statewide figures, the number of gambling sites is slightly above the statewide average. However, the number of devices per capita is three times the analogous number statewide, and the regional average is the highest in the State.

**TABLE 1, Region 5 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Allen</b>	19,182	1	.05	3156	164.53
<b>Beauregard</b>	23,915	0	0	0	0
<b>Calcasieu</b>	133,277	163	1.22	4837	36.29
<b>Cameron</b>	7,154	15	2.10	45	6.29
<b>Jefferson Davis</b>	23,482	24	1.02	70	2.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	207,010	203	.98	8108	39.17

**PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 5**

Table 2 looks at the overall prevalence of gambling in the parishes in Region 5, using two different data sets, the principal questionnaire and the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls. Of the 21 high school principals, both of whom were in Calcasieu Parish, who responded to the survey, only two believed major gambling problems existed among their students. Overall, about 67% of principals in the region felt that there was some form of gambling problem in their schools. The percentage of principals who felt that there was a minor gambling problem (57.2%) and the percentage who felt that there was a major gambling problem (9.5%) were both lower than the statewide averages.

Calls made to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline from Region 5 are also examined in Table 2. The most notable aspect of this section of the table is that Calcasieu Parish has an inordinate number of people seeking assistance, based on the percentage of the population living within its borders. Another interesting point is that Beauregard Parish, with nearly 12% of the region’s population, only accounts for 3.4% of the regional calls. The overall number of calls received by the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline was much less than would be anticipated from Region 5, given its share of the State population.

**TABLE 2, REGION 5 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents</b>			<b>Gambling Helpline Callers</b>		<b>Population</b>	
	<b>NO PROBLEMS</b>	<b>SOME MINOR PROBLEMS</b>	<b>SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS</b>	<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>ADULT POPULATION</b>	<b>REGION SHARE OF POP</b>
<b>Allen (n=4)</b>	50% (2)	50% (2)	0	<b>Allen</b>	6.9% (2)	19,182	9.3%
<b>Beauregard (n=3)</b>	0	100% (3)	0	<b>Beauregard</b>	3.4% (1)	23,915	11.6%
<b>Calcasieu (n=9)</b>	22.2% (2)	55.6% (5)	22.2% (2)	<b>Calcasieu</b>	72.4% (21)	133,277	64.4%
<b>Cameron</b>	-	-	-	<b>Cameron</b>	3.4% (1)	7,154	3.5%
<b>Jefferson Davis (n=5)</b>	60% (3)	40% (2)	0	<b>Jefferson Davis</b>	13.8% (4)	23,482	11.3%
<b>TOTALS (n=21)</b>	33.3% (7)	57.2% (12)	9.5% (2)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=29	207,010	

## **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 5**

Three different activities (going to casinos (45.5%), slot/gambling machines (31%), and playing numbers/lottery (27.3%) accounted for much of the gambling endeavors reported by survey respondents in Region 5. The respondents in Region 5, compared to those in other regions, with five different activities having less than 10% of respondents who participated in them. Other evidence of the low gambling activity among those we interviewed here is the low conversion rates for different activities. This gauge, which measures the percentage of those who participate weekly in activities in which they engage, shows very low numbers for all gambling issues, other than participating in the stock market (41.8%). For those activities mentioned above that have high rates of participation, the highest conversion rate is for those who play cards at 11.7%. A notable finding was that fewer respondents to the surveys from this region reported that they gambled, and gambled weekly, than in any other part of the State. For major activities these findings remained strong, with many fewer respondents acknowledging that they went to casinos, played the lottery, or played slot machines, than was the statewide average.

The *only* gambling activity that was cited as a major problem among students by high school principals was bingo with 9.5% of principals listing it as such. Also, of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers from Region 5, the only activities mentioned by more than 10 percent of those seeking assistance were casino gaming (69%) and playing slot machines (48.3%). Six different activities were not mentioned at all by any callers within this region.

## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING**

Concurring with the rest of the information that we have discussed for Region 5, the rates of problem and pathological gambling is much lower in this region than exists statewide. Table 4, which compares the percentages of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 5 to the statewide percentages from the overall sample, shows that the rate of problem gambling estimated in the region is half of that statewide. The rate of pathological gambling in the region is estimated at 1.5%, slightly below statewide levels. As was stated in the discussion of other regions, with such a small sample size, the actual

numbers are not necessarily reliable; yet we can be statistically confident that the upper bound for the number of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 5 is about 7,400 each.

**TABLE 3, Region 5 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>12</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	19.7	11.7	0	0
Bet on Animals	12.9	0	0	0
Bet on Sports	5.3	0	0	0
Dice Games	6.1	13.1	0	10.3
Went to Casino	45.5	1.8	0	69.0
Numbers/Lottery	27.3	13.9	0	3.4
Played Bingo	19.7	11.7	9.5%	3.4
Stock Market	9.1	41.8	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	31.0	4.8	0	48.3
Played Sports or Games for Money	7.6	0	0	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	3.0	0	0	0
Other	6.1	0	0	6.9
Total Responses	N=133	N=133	N=21	N=29

**TABLE 4, Region 5 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

Category	Region 5	Statewide
Adult Population	207,010	3,233,151
Sample Size	133	1353
Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling	1.5%	3.0% (41)
Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling	1.5%	1.6% (22)
Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers	Up to 7,400	67,900 – 126,000
Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers	Up to 7,400	29,100 – 74,400

<sup>12</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

## REGION 6

Region 6 bisects the midsection of Louisiana, extending from the Texas to the Mississippi borders. Much of the region is rural, with agriculture and forestry being two of the primary employment bases in the region. The largest city in the region is Alexandria, in Rapides Parish. The topography of this region is much different than that of southern parts of the State,

### GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 6

Outside of Avoyelles Parish, which borders Mississippi, there are no legalized gambling establishments (outside of lottery outlets) in this region. The main establishment is the Tunica Casino, located in Marksville and run by the Tunica Indians. Compared to other regions, this region has much fewer gambling sites, with a per capita rate among the lowest in the State. The number of devices per capita is slightly less than the State average, as well.

**TABLE 1, Region 6 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Avoyelles</b>	30,364	35	1.15	2345	77.23
<b>Catahoula</b>	8,103	0	0	0	0
<b>Concordia</b>	14,618	0	0	0	0
<b>Grant</b>	13,406	0	0	0	0
<b>La Salle</b>	10,369	0	0	0	0
<b>Rapides</b>	91,973	0	0	0	0
<b>Vernon</b>	37,244	0	0	0	0
<b>Winn</b>	12,704	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	218,781	35	.16	2345	10.72

## **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 6**

Table 2 looks at the prevalence of gambling problems using two bases: from the point of view of high school principals in the region and based upon the regional proportion of callers to Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline. Looking at the responses to the principal's questionnaire, we see that although over two-thirds of the principals who responded believe that there are problems associated with gambling among their students, only 8.9% felt that the problems were major. As we might expect, based on the Table 1 results, principals in Avoyelles Parish generally believe the problems were worse than those in other parishes in the region. Compared to other parts of the State, a much lower percentage of principals believe that there is a major gambling problem among their students, about half of the statewide average.

The same picture is presented to us in the other section of Table 2. Here, the only parish with a much larger percentage of calls than we might expect, based on percentage of population is Avoyelles, although Concordia and Winn were slightly higher than anticipated. Looking at the statewide figures, the percentage of calls made to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline is about half of what would be anticipated, given their percentage of the State's population.

## **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 6**

As might be expected, in a region with little legalized gambling, relatively few respondents of our telephone interviews stated that they gamble on any of the activities, compared to most other regions of the State. Only one activity, going to casinos (41.2%) found more than one-third of respondents who utilized it as a pastime. Only two others, slot machines (30.3%) and lottery (25.2%), exceeded the 20% threshold. Another indicator of a low rate of gambling among respondents in this region is that the highest conversion rate, which measures the percentage of participants who indulge on a weekly level for any activity, for these three pastimes, was for playing slot machines, at 13.9%. Compared to other parts of the State, Region 6 had the lowest rate of going to casinos, playing the lottery, or playing slot machines of any region. As well, the percentage of individuals who stated that they had gambled in the last year was lower than in any other area.

Likewise, few principals felt that any activity was a cause of major gambling problems among students in their high schools. The only activity that was mentioned by more than one administrator (out of 23 who responded) was playing dice games, which was named by two of them.

**TABLE 2, Region 6 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Avoyelles (3)</b>	0	66.7% (2)	33.3% (1)	<b>Avoyelles</b>	17.4% (4)	30,364	13.9%
<b>Catahoula (2)</b>	0	100% (2)	0	<b>Catahoula</b>	-	8,103	3.7%
<b>Concordia (3)</b>	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	<b>Concordia</b>	8.7% (2)	14,618	6.7%
<b>Grant (2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>Grant</b>	4.3% (1)	13,406	6.4%
<b>La Salle (1)</b>	100% (1)	0	0	<b>La Salle</b>	-	10,369	4.7%
<b>Rapides (8)</b>	50% (4)	50% (4)	0	<b>Rapides</b>	56.5% (13)	91,973	42.0%
<b>Vernon (4)</b>	0	100% (4)	0	<b>Vernon</b>	4.3% (1)	37,244	17.0%
<b>Winn</b>	-	-	-	<b>Winn</b>	8.7% (2)	12,704	5.8%
<b>TOTALS (n=23)</b>	30.4% (7)	60.9% (14)	8.7% (2)	<b>TOTALS (n=23)</b>		218,781	

Finally, there were two notable features to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline portion of Table 3. First, only 23 individuals could be identified from Region 6 who called the Helpline seeking assistance during the first half of the year. The second interesting aspect is that virtually all of these individuals reported that at least one of the activities that they enjoyed was going to casinos. This near unanimity was unmatched by other parts of the State. The only other activity mentioned by more than 10% of callers was playing the lottery (21.7%).

**TABLE 3, Region 6 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Telephone Interviews</b>		<b>Principal Surveys</b>	<b>Gambling Helpline</b>
	<b>EVER BET ON</b>	<b>CONVERSION RATE<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>MAJOR PROBLEM</b>	<b>PROBLEMS REPORTED</b>
<b>Played Cards</b>	19.3	21.8	4.3%	4.3
<b>Bet on Animals</b>	10.1	24.8	0	8.6
<b>Bet on Sports</b>	5.8	13.8	0	0
<b>Dice Games</b>	5.1	33.3	9.7%	4.3
<b>Went to Casino</b>	41.2	10.2	0	95.7
<b>Numbers/Lottery</b>	25.2	9.9	0	21.7
<b>Played Bingo</b>	16.8	14.9	0	4.3
<b>Stock Market</b>	7.6	44.7	0	0
<b>Slot/Gambling Machines</b>	30.3	13.9	0	8.7
<b>Played Sports or Games for Money</b>	3.4	0	0	0
<b>Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money</b>	5.0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	2.5	0	0	4.3
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=119	N=119	N=23	N=23

<sup>13</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 6**

Finally, Table 4 shows our estimates of the number of problem and pathological gamblers in Region 6. As might be expected, given the earlier results seen from this region, respondents had lower rates of both problem and pathological gambling than was found statewide. As has been discussed in other regions, with such a small sample size, the actual numbers are not necessarily accurate; yet we can be statistically confident that the upper bound for the number of problem gamblers is about 11,600 and for pathological gamblers is about 5,300 in Region 6.

**TABLE 4, Region 6 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Adult Population</b>	218,781	3,233,151
<b>Sample Size</b>	N=119	1353
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling</b>	2.5%	3.0% (41)
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling</b>	.8%	1.6% (22)
<b>Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers</b>	Up to 11,600	67,900 – 126,000
<b>Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers</b>	Up to 5,300	29,100 – 74,400

## **REGION 7**

Region 7 covers the northwestern section of Louisiana. It is an area with two metropolitan centers adjacent to each other, Shreveport and Bossier City. Yet it has an abundance of farmland. It has major industries, and it has beautiful forests. The two most populous parishes, Caddo and Bossier, have a profusion of gambling facilities aimed at tourists from Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 7**

Table 1 shows the amount of gambling sites and devices in each parish in Region 7. The preponderance of gambling sites in the region is located in Caddo and Bossier Parishes, which contain 80% of the sites. The remainder of the sites is spread among three other parishes, while two others have no legalized gambling activity (other than lottery outlets). When measuring sites on a per capita basis, they are much more evenly balanced. The parish with the highest number of gambling locales per capita is Red River Parish, which is about twice as high as the other parishes that have gambling establishments. When compared to other parts of the State, the number of sites per capita is almost exactly the same as the State average.

When looking at gambling devices, the picture is different. Once again, the vast majority is located in Caddo and Bossier Parishes, which together account for more than 90% of the gambling devices in the region. Even when examined on a devices per adult basis, these two parishes outweigh the others, with Bossier Parish having three times the rate of any other parish in the region. The number of devices per capita in Region 7 is nearly double the State average, and is the second highest of any section of the State.

### **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 7**

Table 2 shows the preponderance of gambling in Region 7 using two different data sets. The first, gathered from the questionnaire returned by high school principals in the area, shows that 75% of them believe that there is some type of gambling problem among their students. One-sixth of the principals feel that the problem is a major one. Examining the data on a parish-by-parish basis, gambling among students appears to be a

widespread phenomenon, with most parishes having similar responses. The results from Region 7, when compared to statewide, are almost identical to the State averages.

The second portion of Table 2 compares the proportion of Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls made from each parish to the proportion of adults residing in that parish. The two parishes that tend to be over-represented here are the two largest, Caddo and Bossier. A reason for this may be because Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline’s headquarters are located in Shreveport, which might enable potential consumers to have more knowledge of the services they offer. The parishes that have less calls than are expected are Webster and Natchitoches, which each have about one-half as many calls as their population would lead us to expect. Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline receives a much greater share of calls from Region 7 than is its proportion of Louisiana’s population.

**TABLE 1, Region 7 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Bienville</b>	11,452	0	0	0	0
<b>Bossier</b>	70,783	89	1.26	4212	59.51
<b>Caddo</b>	184,581	198	1.07	3753	20.33
<b>Claiborne</b>	12,537	0	0	0	0
<b>De Soto</b>	18,254	11	.60	275	15.07
<b>Natchitoches</b>	28,919	0	0	0	0
<b>Red River</b>	6,726	15	2.23	103	15.31
<b>Sabine</b>	17,313	0	0	0	0
<b>Webster</b>	31,122	32	1.03	323	10.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	381,687	345	.90	8666	22.70

**GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 7**

Table 3 shows each of the different gambling activities viewed in the different data sets. This juxtaposition allows us to view each activity in different contexts, from the telephone interviews, the principal questionnaires, and from Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls.

**TABLE 2, Region 7 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Bienville (2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>Bienville</b>	.8 (1)	11,452	3.0%
<b>Bossier (5)</b>	0	100% (5)	0	<b>Bossier</b>	20.8 (26)	70,783	18.5%
<b>Caddo (9)</b>	22.2% (2)	55.6% (5)	22.2% (2)	<b>Caddo</b>	60.8 (76)	184,581	48.4%
<b>Claiborne (2)</b>	0	100% (2)	0	<b>Claiborne</b>	2.4 (3)	12,537	3.3%
<b>De Soto (3)</b>	33.3% (1)	0	66.7% (2)	<b>De Soto</b>	4.8 (6)	18,254	4.8%
<b>Natchitoches</b>	-	-	-	<b>Natchitoches</b>	4.0 (5)	28,919	7.6%
<b>Red River (1)</b>	100% (1)	0	0	<b>Red River</b>	1.6 (2)	6,726	1.8%
<b>Sabine</b>	-	-	-	<b>Sabine</b>	1.6 (2)	17,313	4.5%
<b>Webster (2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>Webster</b>	3.2 (4)	31,122	8.2%
<b>TOTALS (24)</b>	25% (6)	58.3% (14)	16.7% (4)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=125	381,687	

By far, the most prevalent activity for those who were questioned during the telephone interviews was going to casinos (54%). Other gambling pastimes that had a large number of participants included playing slot machines (31.3%) and buying lottery tickets (30.6%). Of these activities, more than one-sixth of those who indulged in both of the latter two did so on a weekly basis. The analogous rate for those who visited casinos was about half that number.

Comparing Region 7 data to statewide averages, the number of respondents who asserted that they went to casinos was about the same as in other parts of the State. However, many less of those interviewed from Region 7 either played the lottery or played slot machines than the State averages. The percentage of those who gambled, and who gambled frequently was also lower here than in other parts of the State.

One-sixth of the principals who responded to the questionnaire in Region 7 believe that dice games were a major gambling problem among their students. Two principals noted another item: playing cards.

There were only two gambling activities that were mentioned by at least 10% of those seeking assistance in Region 7, going to casino (84.7%) and playing slot/gambling machines (29.8%). Probably the most notable feature of the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline data is the inordinately large number of calls made from this region compared to other areas of the State. As was mentioned earlier, Helpline is headquartered in Shreveport. This may have led to an increase in the amount of people with knowledge of the assistance they provide which, in turn, leads to an increase in calls.

## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 7**

Table 4 shows the rates of problem and pathological gambling in Region 7 and compares them to the statewide rates. The results here are mixed, with the rate of problem gambling slightly below the statewide totals, and the rate of pathological gambling slightly above the State numbers. Of course, the exact numbers provided for Region 7, or any of the regions, should be interpreted with caution, given the relatively small sample sizes. However, we can state with confidence that the upper bound for the amount of problem gamblers is around 20,800 and for pathological gamblers is 17,200 for this region.

**TABLE 3, Region 7 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>14</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	13.3	9.8	8.3%	4.8
Bet on Animals	21.3	6.1	0	4.0
Bet on Sports	8.7	0	0	.8
Dice Games	6.0	33.3	16.7%	1.6
Went to Casino	54.0	7.4	0	84.7
Numbers/Lottery	30.6	17.3	0	5.6
Played Bingo	14.7	0	0	1.6
Stock Market	11.3	35.4	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	31.3	16.9	0	29.8
Played Sports or Games for Money	4.0	0	4.2%	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	4.0	0	0	0
Other	2.7	0	0	0
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=119	N=119	N=24	N=125

**TABLE 4, Region 7 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

Category	Region 7	Statewide
Adult Population	381,687	3,233,151
Sample Size	119	1353
Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling	2.6%	3.0% (41)
Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling	2.0%	1.6% (22)
Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers	Up to 20,800	67,900 – 126,000
Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers	Up to 17,200	29,100 – 74,400

<sup>14</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

## **REGION 8**

Region 8 lies in the northeastern sector of the State abutting Arkansas and Mississippi. This region is rich in agriculture and farmlands, and contains the twin cities of Monroe and West Monroe, both located in Ouachita Parish. Compared to some of the other regions that border other states, there are few legalized gambling establishments here.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 8**

Table 1 shows, for each parish in Region 8, how many gambling establishments and devices that there are. We see that only three parishes have any legalized gambling sites, and these three parishes are among the smallest in population in the region. More than half of the gambling sites in the region are located in Madison Parish. Looked at on a per capita basis, Madison once again dominates, with a slightly higher rate than Tensas Parish.

Madison Parish also dominates the number of gambling devices in the region, with 85% of devices located there. This holds true when we look at the devices on a per capita basis, as Madison has a rate five times higher than Tensas Parish.

Compared to other parts of the State, Region 8 has much fewer sites per capita and devices per capita than the statewide averages, and is among the lowest in both for any state region.

### **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 8**

Table 2 looks at two different parish data sets: high school principals who responded to our questionnaire and Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls. Eighty percent of the high school principals believed that there was some level of gambling problem among their students. These problems are spread evenly throughout the region, with the sole exception being Union Parish. Compared to the Louisiana averages, principals in Region 8 were slightly more likely to believe that their students have both major and minor gambling problems.

Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls generally matched the percentage of the population residing in each parish. A major exception to this is in Madison Parish, where the percentage of calls was nearly triple what it would be on a percentage basis. Another notable feature seen in this table is how few calls there were to Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline from this region. Compared to the percentage of residents living in Region 8, the Helpline received less than half as many calls as were expected.

**TABLE 1, Region 8 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Caldwell</b>	7952	0	0	0	0
<b>East Carroll</b>	6566	9	1.37	27	4.11
<b>Franklin</b>	15331	0	0	0	0
<b>Jackson</b>	11502	0	0	0	0
<b>Lincoln</b>	33115	0	0	0	0
<b>Madison</b>	9253	26	2.81	355	38.37
<b>Morehouse</b>	22490	0	0	0	0
<b>Ouachita</b>	106167	0	0	0	0
<b>Richland</b>	15253	0	0	0	0
<b>Tensas</b>	4864	12	2.47	36	7.40
<b>Union</b>	22490	0	0	0	0
<b>West Carroll</b>	9162	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	264145	47	.18	418	1.58

### **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 8**

In Table 3, the prevalence of gambling activities in three different data sets is examined. In the telephone interviews that were conducted during the summer of 2002, three different activities, casino (49.2%), slot machines (39.3%), and playing lottery (36.3%), were named by more than one-fifth of the respondents. Of these most commonly utilized pastimes, those who played the lottery (18.7%) were more likely to do it on a weekly basis. An interesting facet of this section of the table is that the similar rate for casinos is 2.0%, meaning that only one out of fifty

individuals who have gone to casinos for gambling fun in the previous year do so on a weekly basis.

Of the fifteen high school principals in the region who responded to the questionnaire, two different items were mentioned as major problems among their students by more than one administrator: dice games (20%) and playing cards (14.3%).

**TABLE 2, Region 8 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Caldwell</b>	-	-	-	<b>Caldwell</b>	-	7952	3.0%
<b>East Carroll (1)</b>	0	100% (1)	0	<b>East Carroll</b>	4.8% (1)	6566	2.5%
<b>Franklin (1)</b>	0	100% (1)	0	<b>Franklin</b>	4.8% (1)	15331	5.8%
<b>Jackson (1)</b>	0	100% (1)	0	<b>Jackson</b>	4.8% (1)	11502	4.4%
<b>Lincoln (2)</b>	0	50% (1)	50% (1)	<b>Lincoln</b>	14.3% (3)	33115	12.5%
<b>Madison (1)</b>	0	100% (1)	0	<b>Madison</b>	9.5% (2)	9253	3.5%
<b>Morehouse (1)</b>	0	100% (1)	0	<b>Morehouse</b>	9.5% (2)	22490	8.5%
<b>Ouachita (3)</b>	0	66.7% (2)	33.3% (1)	<b>Ouachita</b>	38.1% (8)	106167	40.2%
<b>Richland</b>	-	-	-	<b>Richland</b>	9.5% (2)	15253	5.8%
<b>Tensas (1)</b>	0	0	100% (1)	<b>Tensas</b>	4.8% (1)	4864	1.8%
<b>Union (2)</b>	100% (2)	0	0	<b>Union</b>	-	22490	8.5%
<b>West Carroll (2)</b>	50% (1)	50% (1)	0	<b>West Carroll</b>	-	9162	3.5%
<b>TOTALS (n=15)</b>	20% (3)	60% (9)	20% (3)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=21	264145	

**TABLE 3, Region 8 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Telephone Interviews</b>		<b>Principal Surveys</b>	<b>Gambling Helpline</b>
	<b>EVER BET ON</b>	<b>CONVERSION RATE<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>MAJOR PROBLEM</b>	<b>PROBLEMS REPORTED</b>
<b>Played Cards</b>	17.5	13.1	14.3%	9.5
<b>Bet on Animals</b>	12.2	6.6	0	4.8
<b>Bet on Sports</b>	9.8	15.3	0	0
<b>Dice Games</b>	6.1	13.1	20%	0
<b>Went to Casino</b>	49.2	2.0	0	71.4
<b>Numbers/Lottery</b>	36.3	18.7	7.1%	23.8
<b>Played Bingo</b>	18.9	7.9	0	4.8
<b>Stock Market</b>	15.9	47.8	0	0
<b>Slot/Gambling Machines</b>	39.3	9.7	0	33.3
<b>Played Sports or Games for Money</b>	9.9	8.1	0	0
<b>Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money</b>	4.6	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>	3.9	0	0	0
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=132	N=132	N=15	N=21

The vast majority of the 21 individuals who called Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline for assistance said that a gambling activity that they indulged in was going to casinos. The only other pastimes mentioned by more than 10% of callers was playing the lottery (23.8%) and playing slot machines (33.3%).

Compared to other regions, the notable feature from Region 8 respondents is that respondents who gambled were much less likely to report that they gambled on a weekly basis. This is especially true for going to casinos, where the rate is one-sixth the State average.

<sup>15</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

**PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 8**

Finally, we look at the problem and pathological gambling in Region 8. Based on our sample, the rate of problem gambling is above the statewide average, and the rate of pathological gambling is slightly below that of the remainder of the State. Although we must interpret the exact figures from our sample with caution, because of the small sample size, we can estimate the upper bounds of problem and pathological gamblers residing in this area of the State as 18,700 and 9,400 respectively.

**TABLE 4, Region 8 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling,**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Adult Population</b>	264,145	3,233,151
<b>Sample Size</b>	132	1353
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling</b>	3.8%	3.0% (41)
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling</b>	1.5%	1.6% (22)
<b>Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers</b>	Up to 18,700	67,900 – 126,000
<b>Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers</b>	Up to 9,400	29,100 – 74,400

## REGION 9

This region is made up of a great deal of the Florida Parishes (other than those that are in CAHSD). This area borders Mississippi north of New Orleans, and consists of forests, farmland, and water recreational vistas.

### GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – REGION 9

St. Helena, the smallest parish in the region, is the only parish in Region 9 that contains any legalized gambling establishments. This parish borders Mississippi, and many of the sites are near the State border. When compared to other regions, Region 9 has the least amount of sites per capita and devices per capita in Louisiana.

**TABLE 1, Region 9 Gambling Establishments, by Parish**

PARISH	ADULT POP	GAMBLING SITES	SITES/1000 ADULTS	GAMBLING DEVICES	DEVICES/1000 ADULTS
Livingston	64,729	0	0	0	0
St. Helena	7,473	30	4.01	479	64.10
St. Tammany	136,948	0	0	0	0
Tangipahoa	72,725	0	0	0	0
Washington	32,154	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	314,029	30	.10	479	1.53

### PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – REGION 9

Table 2 shows the prevalence of gambling in the different parishes based on two different data sets, the principals' questionnaire and the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls. Based on the responses from high school principals, over three-fourths of them believe that there is some type of gambling problem among the students at their school. A relatively high percentage of them, 22.7%, believe that these problems are major. A notable exception is Livingston Parish schools, where all five principals reported that gambling was not a problem among their students.

**TABLE 2, Region 9 Indicators of Gambling Problems**

PARISH	Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents			Gambling Helpline Callers		Population	
	NO PROBLEMS	SOME MINOR PROBLEMS	SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS	PARISH	CALLS	ADULT POPULATION	REGION SHARE OF POP
<b>Livingston (n=5)</b>	40% (2)	60% (3)	0	<b>Livingston</b>	27.6% (n=8)	64,729	20.6%
<b>St. Helena</b>	-	-	-	<b>St. Helena</b>	3.4% (n=1)	7,473	2.4%
<b>St. Tammany (n=5)</b>	20% (1)	40% (2)	40% (2)	<b>St. Tammany</b>	37.9% (n=11)	136,948	43.6%
<b>Tangipahoa (n=8)</b>	25% (2)	62.5% (5)	12.5% (1)	<b>Tangipahoa</b>	20.7% (n=6)	72,725	23.2%
<b>Washington (n=4)</b>	0	50% (2)	50% (2)	<b>Washington</b>	10.3% (n=3)	32,154	10.2%
<b>TOTALS (n=22)</b>	22.7% (5)	54.6% (12)	22.7% (5)	<b>TOTALS</b>	N=29	314,029	

Compared to the statewide figures, principals were slightly more likely to believe that their students have some major gambling problems, and slightly less apt to believe that the students have some minor gambling problems.

For the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline data, that compares the percentage of calls received from a parish to the percentage of the Region 9 population within that parish, we see that Livingston Parish is the only one that is over-represented to a large degree, while St. Tammany Parish is the only one that is under-represented. Compared to other regions, individuals from Region 9 were much less likely to seek assistance from Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline on a per capita basis than from other regions of the State.

### **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – REGION 9**

More of the respondents to the telephone survey mentioned that they participated in different gambling activities than was true in many of the other regions. About half of those interviewed related that they had gone to casinos, played the lottery, and/or played slot or gambling machines. In addition, one-quarter of the respondents partook of three other activities, playing cards, playing bingo, or betting on animal events. Of the above events, that we might consider to be the more popular ones in Region 9, the conversion rate is highest for playing the lottery (21.3%) and playing cards (17.1%).

In the next section of Table 3, the data show the questionnaire responses provided by high school principals regarding different gambling activities. Compared to other regions, many administrators were likely to cite different activities as sources of major gambling problems among their students. More than one principal as a major problem named six different gambling pastimes, with dice games and bingo being the most common sources listed.

Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline received 29 different calls from region 9 during the first half of 2002. Of these calls seeking assistance, individuals cited three different activities as the source of gambling problems. Going to casinos was named by 58.6%, slot/gambling machines by 48.3%, and lottery by 17.2% of them.

## PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – REGION 9

The problems of problem and pathological gambling, based on the data gained through the individual interviews, are much less severe in Region 9 than in other parts of the State. Although the exact numbers provided cannot be considered reliable due to the small sample size of the region, we can be confident that the upper bound of problem and pathological gamblers is 7,300 each.

**TABLE 3, Region 9 Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>16</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	26.9	17.1	18.2%	0
Bet on Animals	22.3	0	13.6%	0
Bet on Sports	17.2	4.7	0	0
Dice Games	7.1	11.3	22.7%	0
Went to Casino	57.8	9.5	0	58.6
Numbers/Lottery	51.2	21.3	4.5%	17.2
Played Bingo	25.8	6.2	18.2%	0
Stock Market	14.8	52.7	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	47.6	4.8	0	48.3
Played Sports or Games for Money	6.3	12.7	13.6%	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	9.4	8.5	9.1%	0
Other	7.0	0	0	3.4
Total Responses	N=130	N=130	N=22	N=29

<sup>16</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

**TABLE 4, Region 9 Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Adult Population</b>	314,029	3,233,151
<b>Sample Size</b>	130	1353
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling</b>	.8%	3.0% (41)
<b>Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling</b>	.8%	1.6% (22)
<b>Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers</b>	Up to 7,300	67,900 – 126,000
<b>Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers</b>	Up to 7,300	29,100 – 74,400

## **REGION 10 – Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA)**

Jefferson Parish is considered its own region, with more autonomy in providing health services than other parishes have. It adjoins New Orleans and consists of a large suburban residential area and is a commercial and industrial center in Louisiana.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS – JPHSA**

There are a large number of gambling sites and devices in JPHSA compared to other sections of the State. This remains true when we look at the data on a per capita basis, as well.

**TABLE 1, JPHSA Gambling Establishments**

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>ADULT POP</b>	<b>GAMBLING SITES</b>	<b>SITES/1000 ADULTS</b>	<b>GAMBLING DEVICES</b>	<b>DEVICES/1000 ADULTS</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	322,014	570	1.77	4517	14.03

### **PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING – JPHSA**

Table 2 looks at the prevalence of gambling in JPHSA based on two data sets, the principal questionnaire and the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls. Fifty percent of the six principals who returned the questionnaire believed that there are minor gambling problems among their students. On the bright side, no principals reported that they believe major gambling problems exist among their students. In the other part of the table, Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline received 128 calls from people seeking assistance with gambling problems during the first half of 2002. This figure is among the highest from any area of the State.

**TABLE 2, JPHSA Indicators of Gambling Problems**

	<b>Prevalence of Gambling Among Adolescents</b>			<b>Gambling Helpline Callers</b>		<b>Population</b>	
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>NO PROBLEMS</b>	<b>SOME MINOR PROBLEMS</b>	<b>SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS</b>	<b>PARISH</b>	<b>CALLS</b>	<b>ADULT POPULATION</b>	<b>REGION SHARE OF POP</b>
<b>JEFFERSON (n=6)</b>	50% (3)	50% (3)	0% (0)	<b>JEFFERSON</b>	128	322,014	-

## **GAMBLING ACTIVITIES – JPHSA**

Table 3 shows the rate of the different gambling activities in each of the three data sets that we collected. Examining the telephone interviews, we find that five different activities are mentioned by more than 25% of the respondents. The most mentioned pastime was going to casinos with 64.3% of respondents stating that they had gone there in the past year. Another notable feature of this section of the table is the relatively high conversion rates for the different activities. The implication to this is that, not only do many respondents partake of different activities, a high percentage of those who do enjoy them, do so frequently. Thus, for example, 31.3% of respondents have bet on cards in the past year, and 24% of those who play cards, do so at least once per week.

The principal surveys are noteworthy in that JPHSA is the only region where not a single principal believed that there was a major gambling problem among their students. The primary problem with Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline callers was associated with going to casinos (81.0%). The only other problem mentioned by more than 5% of those seeking help was slot/gambling machines (38.9%).

## **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – JPHSA**

Among those individuals whom were interviewed by telephone, the rates of both problem and pathological gambling were about double the rates statewide (see Table 4). Although the exact percentages must be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size within the region, we can state with statistical confidence that there are up to 28,000 individuals who have a problem with gambling and up to 19,000 pathological gamblers residing within JPHSA.

**TABLE 3 – JPHSA Prevalence of Gambling Activities**

ACTIVITY	Telephone Interviews		Principal Surveys	Gambling Helpline
	EVER BET ON	CONVERSION RATE <sup>17</sup>	MAJOR PROBLEM	PROBLEMS REPORTED
Played Cards	31.3	24.0	0	2.4
Bet on Animals	19.1	15.5	0	2.4
Bet on Sports	16.4	20.6	0	3.2
Dice Games	13.3	18.5	0	0
Went to Casino	64.3	15.4	0	81.0
Numbers/Lottery	45.2	28.0	0	4.0
Played Bingo	28.0	8.0	0	.8
Stock Market	17.4	27.0	0	0
Slot/Gambling Machines	38.8	16.9	0	38.9
Played Sports or Games for Money	12.0	23.7	0	0
Pull Tabs/Paper Games for Money	10.0	14.7	0	0
Other	5.8	0	0	.8
<b>Total Responses</b>	N=130	N=130	N=6	N=128

**TABLE 4 – JPHSA Problem Wagering and Pathological Gambling**

Category	Jefferson Parish	Statewide
Adult Population	322,014	3,233,151
Sample Size	130	1353
Estimated Prevalence of Problem Gambling	5.0%	3.0% (41)
Estimated Prevalence of Pathological Gambling	3.0%	1.6% (22)
Estimated Number of Problem Gamblers	Up to 28,200	67,900 – 126,000
Estimated Number of Pathological Gamblers	Up to 19,100	29,100 – 74,400

<sup>17</sup> Conversion rate was computed by dividing the ‘once/week or more’ number by the ‘ever bet on’ number. It measures, of those who gamble on an activity, what percentage do so with frequency.

## **CHAPTER 5 – Conclusion**

In this chapter, we will discuss how some of the information gathered from different data sets relates to each other, and the implications of these findings. The paper will conclude with some implications and possible directions for future research.

### **GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS AND DEVICES**

The focus of this section is the number of gambling sites and gambling devices, and the per capita gambling establishments and devices in each region. Other than demographic differences between the regions, these variables would seem to explain in part why regions would differ in the gambling problems, and how the problems evince themselves. So, this section will discuss whether the data reveal the linkage between gambling problems and gambling apparatus. In each of the subsections below, we will compare the regional data for the specific type of information with the regional data. It is appropriate to recall that in the following analyses, with a small n (10), it is very difficult for two variables to correlate closely enough that they are found to be statistically significant. But the association between the variables should still give us a good sense of the relationship connecting them.

### **PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENT GAMBLING**

Is there any relationship between the level of gambling problems among high school students (in their principal's opinion) and the amount of legal gambling that is in their region? Table 5-1 below shows that there is no relationship between these two. This is not unexpected, since, in virtually every region, and statewide, principals do not view the sources of gambling problems as those venues that are restricted by statute to adults. Instead, adolescent gambling problems seem to be those in which they can interact with their friends, such as playing dice games or cards, rather than those that employ mechanical devices.

### **LOUISIANA PROBLEM GAMBLERS HELPLINE CALLS**

What about Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline calls? Is there any linkage between the amount of calls received by the Helpline from a region, and either the

number of gambling sites or gambling machines in that region? Table 5-1 shows that there is a strong positive relationship between the number of calls for assistance received from any region of Louisiana and the number of gambling establishments, the number of establishments per capita, and the amount of gambling devices. The implication to this is that, as any of the preceding factors increase, people seeking assistance would be expected to climb in any region.

### **PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS**

An interesting image is seen in the relationship between problem and pathological gambling with the supply distributional variables. Both problem and pathological gambling have a strong positive relationship with sites and sites per capita, but the relationship between both problem and pathological gambling with gambling devices and devices per capita is negligible. A reason for these results may very well have to do with immediacy, i.e., the ability for someone who has a craving to gamble being able to fulfill their need quickly. This need could be met much more easily where a number of various places had gambling available, even if each site only had a few devices, than would occur if a few isolated places had a number of gambling devices.

### **NON-GAMBLERS AND WEEKLY GAMBLERS**

Very similar results are found in this analysis as in the previous one. The results show that the percentage of non-gamblers has a strong negative correlation with the number of gambling sites and the sites per capita, while showing very little relationship with the number of devices or devices per capita. These results are interpreted to mean that as the number of establishments offering gambling increase in a region, the number of non-gamblers would be expected to decline. As might be expected, for weekly gamblers this relationship is reversed. That is, the number of weekly gamblers increases as the number of sites and sites per capita increase.

**Table 5-1 Relationship between Extent of Legal Gambling and Gambling Problem Indicators**

	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Sites per Capita</b>	<b>Devices</b>	<b>Devices per Capita</b>
<b>PRINCIPAL SURVEY</b>				
<b>No Problems</b>	.241	.336	.224	.328
<b>Minor Problems</b>	-.530	-.431	-.305	-.180
<b>Major Problems</b>	.138	-.035	-.010	-.213
<b>GAMBLING HELPLINE</b>				
<b>Calls</b>	.738**	.590*	.547*	.164
<b>INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS</b>				
<b>Problem Gamblers</b>	.487	.411	.000	-.197
<b>Pathological Gamblers</b>	.609*	.442	.263	.047
<b>Non-Gamblers</b>	-.729**	-.691**	-.040	.132
<b>Weekly Gamblers</b>	.749**	.605*	.266	.110

\* p < .10      \*\* p < .05

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

Dividing the data into regional components has provided a great deal of knowledge about gambling habits throughout Louisiana. This has shown us a direction that may prove useful for future research efforts. Some examples of research that would increase knowledge include:

- Choose either a region or a geographic area of the State, e.g., the southeastern section, and conducting an in-depth study of that area. By increasing the sample size to 1200-2000 for a specific region, demographic details within could be gathered that would provide a great increase in information, at a statistically significant level.
- Examine high school students in more detail, perhaps by finding out from principals more definitive information, such as whether and how often disciplinary actions have resulted from student gambling.
- A different direction might be to choose a specific demographic group. This research has provided, for example, that individuals who are out of work are more likely to gamble weekly than are the employed. It might be fruitful to find out why. Are these persons ‘chasing’ their losses, i.e., are they trying to quickly regain the funds that they lost in a previous session? Do they have more leisure time?

- Another avenue might be to look at different ethnic groups. For example, are Native Americans more likely to gamble if the casinos are owned by them, than if they are merely paying customers?

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# APPENDIX 1: Questionnaire for the 2002 Louisiana Interview

## Survey

### THE PROBLEM OF GAMBLING ADDICTION IN LOUISIANA: A REPLICATION STUDY, 2002

#### Questionnaire for the 2002 Louisiana Survey

I'm ----- of the Mandela School in Baton Rouge. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I'M NOT SELLING ANYTHING. We're conducting a survey of people in your community for the Department of Health and Hospitals of the State of Louisiana concerning the gambling practices of Louisiana citizens. You are one of 1200 people being surveyed throughout the State. Your name was randomly selected by a computer; all of your answers are anonymous. If I ask a question that you prefer not to answer, please just say so, and I'll move on to the next question. In order to interview the right person, I need to speak with a member of your household who is age 18 or older. Would that be you?

MALE \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following age groups are you in?

#### AGE

18-25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
36-45 \_\_\_\_\_ 46-55 \_\_\_\_\_  
56-65 \_\_\_\_\_ over 65 \_\_\_\_\_

What race do you consider yourself to be?

White \_\_\_\_\_ African-American \_\_\_\_\_  
Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

What is your employment status?

Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Unemployed \_\_\_\_\_  
Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please indicate which of the following types of gambling you have done in your lifetime. For each type, tell me whether you have done it 'not at all', 'less than once per week', or 'once a week or more'.

	Not At all	Less than A week or more	Once a week
a. played cards for money	_____	_____	_____
b. bet on horses, dogs, or other animals at OTB, the track, or with a bookie	_____	_____	_____
c. bet on sports (parlay cards, with bookie, at Jai Alai)	_____	_____	_____
d. played dice game, including craps, over and under, or other dice games	_____	_____	_____
e. went to casinos (legal or otherwise)	_____	_____	_____
f. played the numbers or bet on lotteries	_____	_____	_____
g. played bingo	_____	_____	_____
h. played the stock and/or commodities market	_____	_____	_____
i. played slot machines, poker machines, or other gambling machines	_____	_____	_____
j. bowled, shot pool, played golf, or some other game of skill for money	_____	_____	_____
k. played pull tabs or 'paper' games other than lotteries	_____	_____	_____
l. some form of gambling not listed above (please specify) _____	_____	_____	_____

2. What is the largest amount of money you have ever gambles with one any one day?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Never have gambled
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.00 or less
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.01 to \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.01 to \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.01 to \$1000
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.01 to \$10,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ more than \$10,000

3. Do any of the following people in your life have (or had) a gambling problem?

- \_\_\_\_\_ father
- \_\_\_\_\_ brother/sister
- \_\_\_\_\_ my child(ren)
- \_\_\_\_\_ a friend or someone important in my life
- \_\_\_\_\_ mother
- \_\_\_\_\_ my spouse/partner
- \_\_\_\_\_ another relative

4. When you gamble, how often do you go back another day to win back money you have lost?  
 never  some of the times I lost  
 most of the time I lost  every time I lost
5. Have you ever claimed to be winning money gambling, but weren't really? In fact, you lost?  
 never (or never gamble)  
 yes, less than half the time that I lost  
 yes, most of time that I lost
6. Do you feel that you have ever had a problem with betting or money gambling?  
 no  yes  yes in the past, but not now
7. Did you ever gamble more than you intended to?  yes  no
8. Have people ever criticized you for gambling, or told you that you had a gambling problem, regardless of whether or not you thought you had one?  yes  no
9. Have you ever felt guilty about the way that you gamble, or what happens when you gamble?  yes  no
10. Have you ever felt that you would like to stop betting money or gambling, but didn't think you could?  yes  no
11. Have you ever hidden betting slips, lottery tickets, gambling money, IOU's or other signs of betting or gambling from your spouse, children or other important people in your life?  yes  no
12. Have you ever argued with people who you live with over how you handle money?  yes  no
13. (If you answered yes to Question 12) Have money arguments ever centered on your gambling?  yes  no
14. Have you ever borrowed money from someone and not paid them back as a result of your gambling?  yes  no
15. Have you ever lost time from work (or school) due to betting money or gambling?  yes  no

16. If you borrowed money to gamble or to pay gambling debts, who or where did you borrow from?
- |    |  |       |     |       |    |
|----|--|-------|-----|-------|----|
| a. | from household money                             | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| b. | from your spouse                                 | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| c. | from other relatives or in-laws                  | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| d. | from banks, loan companies, or credit unions     | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| e. | from credit cards                                | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| f. | from loan sharks                                 | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| g. | you cashed in stocks, bonds, or other securities | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| h. | you sold personal or family property             | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| i. | you passed bad checks                            | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| j. | you have (or had) a credit line with a bookie    | _____ | yes | _____ | no |
| k. | you have (or had) a credit line with a casino    | _____ | yes | _____ | no |

## APPENDIX 2: High School Principal Questionnaire

### THE PROBLEM OF GAMBLING ADDICTION IN LOUISIANA: A REPLICATION STUDY, 2002

#### Questionnaire for the 2002 Louisiana Survey

Please indicate how big of a problem each of the following types of gambling is among students who attend your school, in your opinion. For each type, tell whether it is 'not a problem', 'a minor problem', or 'a major problem.'

	Not A Problem	Minor Problem	Major Problem
a. played cards for money	_____	_____	_____
b. bet on horses, dogs, or other animals at OTB, the track, or with a bookie	_____	_____	_____
c. bet on sports (parlay cards, with bookie, at Jai Alai)	_____	_____	_____
d. played dice game, including craps, over and under, or other dice games	_____	_____	_____
e. went to casinos (legal or otherwise)	_____	_____	_____
f. played the numbers or bet on lotteries	_____	_____	_____
g. played bingo	_____	_____	_____
h. played the stock and/or commodities market	_____	_____	_____
i. played slot machines, poker machines, or other gambling machines	_____	_____	_____
j. bowled, shot pool, played golf, or some other game of skill for money	_____	_____	_____
k. played pull tabs or 'paper' games other than lotteries	_____	_____	_____
l. some form of gambling	_____	_____	_____
not listed above (please specify)	_____		